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# Netanyahu praises Palestinian vote



PNC members vote unanimously in Gaza yesterday to annul articles of the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. (AP)

## Three-way summit set for this morning

By DANNA HARMAN

The Palestinians stood and voted overwhelmingly, President Bill Clinton made an impassioned plea for peace, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu deemed the process satisfactory. The redeployment, however, is still on hold.

"I certainly would like to praise what went on in Gaza today," Netanyahu told a press conference following yesterday's Palestinian National Council vote to nullify

withdrawal clear. The Palestinians, he will say, still have much to prove before Israel will be able to carry out its part of the agreement.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, at a late night briefing, said the US is still hopeful the redeployment will take place on schedule.

The next withdrawal, from 5 percent of the West Bank, was scheduled to take place this Friday. However, the cabinet is to meet only on Sunday to evaluate the Palestinian Authority's fulfillment of its commitments, and then decide whether or not to move forward with the redeployment.

While Netanyahu said that "politics simply are not on my mind," a senior official stated the obvious, claiming that "with the no-confidence vote scheduled for Monday, taking such a decision about redeployment the day before would be committing political suicide."

The government stresses, however, that no-confidence vote or not, it is clear the Palestinians will not be able to live up to their commitments by Sunday's meeting, so that effectively the next withdrawal is indefinitely postponed.

See VOTE, Page 4

## US spin doctors arrive to help Barak

By SARAH HONIG

The three American campaign specialists who helped Bill Clinton win the US presidency will be arriving this morning to try to win the premiership for Labor's Ehud Barak.

Campaign strategist James Carville, pollster Stanley Greenberg, and media consultant Robert Schrum take credit for having helped make Clinton the "comeback kid" and also for the successful, more recent campaigns of Britain's Tony Blair and

Germany's Gerhard Schroeder.

The Americans will be staying for only a few days, most of which will be spent listening to their Labor Party clients and trying to learn as much as they can about the local political scene, of which they admit to knowing very little.

Their first exposure to Israeli politics will take place early this afternoon at the Knesset, where they will confer with the Labor faction.

At a later stage, they plan to conduct seminars for Labor campaign operatives.

## US stocks rocked by risk of Clinton impeachment

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks fell for the fourth session in a row yesterday, with the Nasdaq market hammered down more than 3 percent, as Wall Street was rocked by worries that President Bill Clinton may be impeached.

Dow Jones industrial average

was off 126.16 points, or 1.43%, at 8,695.60.

In the broader market, declining issues swamped advances 22 to 7 on active volume of 697 million shares.

The Nasdaq composite index plunged 62.59 points, or 3.08%, to 1,966.72.

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**CORRECTION**

**PUBLIC TENDER NO. C4030083**  
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An error occurred in the date for the submission of proposals for the above tender, which appeared in the paper on December 14, 1998.

The text should read:  
All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 29 December 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

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## NEWS

in brief

### Karni Industrial Zone officially opened

Israeli, Palestinian and US leaders yesterday declared the Karni Industrial Zone open, emphasizing their hope that it will alleviate Gaza's unemployment and draw international investors. The opening culminates a three-year effort that the US helped push through. US Secretary of Commerce William Daley announced that Coca-Cola would be the first American company to open operations in the zone. *Hillel Kuttler*

### 5 Israeli Arabs arrested for arming Hamas

Five Israeli Arabs have been arrested by security forces on suspicion of providing arms to Hamas, Army Radio reported yesterday. The radio said four are residents of Umm el-Fahm and the fifth from Kfar Ara in the Wadi Ara area. There was no confirmation from security sources. *tim*

### Beersheba merchant reported kidnapped

The family of Ya'acov Yona, a fruit-and-vegetable merchant from Beersheba who was reported missing by his wife in the Tira area on Sunday, yesterday said he had been kidnapped by Palestinians. The family said they had information that three Palestinians from Gaza had kidnapped Yona and stolen his car and money, Israel Radio reported. There was no comment from police, who said they were searching for Yona after a man with an Arab accent had answered his mobile phone. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Germany decorates Maj.-Gen. Malka

Germany has awarded the Presidential Supreme Medal of Honor to OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka for his role in developing ties between the IDF and the while serving as OC Ground Forces Command. The decoration was personally presented to him last night by Bundeswehr Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Helmut Willmann who came here especially for the occasion. Willmann had been Malka's guest last May, when he led an historic trip of German officer cadets to participate in the first exchange program between the two countries' armed forces. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

## Security a top priority in Gaza

By HILLEL KUTTLER

GAZA CITY—At 8:45 a.m. yesterday, sirens blared, lights flashed, and the American conveyer sped from the Israeli side of Erez toward Palestinian territory. There were Cadillac Fleetwood limousines and black Chevrolet vans with Washington DC license plates. Palestinian policemen quickly waved them through.

President Bill Clinton's arrival was still hours away—and he was coming by helicopter—but even empty, the cars represented the first presidential presence in the Gaza Strip.

At the Rashad Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza City five hours later, security remained a top priority, if in a relaxed way.

The streets bounding the center, where Clinton was to address the Palestinian National Council, were closed to traffic. On Amra Mukhtar Street, Palestinian Authority policemen stood at 30 meter intervals.

They were comfortably arrayed, one squatting, and another leaning back with arms spread on a wall banner that proclaimed: "Long Live US-Palestinian Friendship." Another had his armed wrapped around a light standard, obviously bored. But it was hardly a hermetic seal, as journalists and anyone with an official badge freely strolled right up to the building's entrance. Snipers lined the center's roof and

those of all buildings on the street. One looked through the "welcome" that was strung above the entrance in lights. Another pranced along the roof of a six-story building on Shaul Street whose facade featured a three-story banner depicting Clinton and Arafat, each with one hand aloft. The words beneath them read "Welcome. We Have a Dream. Free Palestine." Flags and slogans flew every where in Gaza, from Gaza City to the outskirts of the Jabalya refugee camp to the Tarazi Petroleum station near the Karni industrial zone. The slogans were finely done, all in English, with the occasional misspelling. The sheets on which they appeared were as white as snow, the block lettering clear and perfectly centered. These were hardly of the type toiled over by giddy residents; their look was too professional.

As was the rhetoric. Some samples: "Welcome President Clinton to Palestine, the Land of Love and Peace." "Arafat is the Hero War and Peace." "Yes for the Peace of Brave People"

The PA also assured its less fortunate brethren of exposure to the horde of journalists on the historic day, with one banner promising there would be "no peace, no security" without a solution to the refugee problem.

See GAZA, Page 4

### JACK LEON

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Deeply mourned by

Zvika, Anat, Noga, Avital and grandchildren



Ladies' Day

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (left) and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha, visit the Beach refugee camp in Gaza yesterday. (AP)

## Tough questions for Jabalya residents

By BEN LYNFIELD

Some of the Palestinians whose intifada helped set in motion the peace process were wondering aloud yesterday whether their sacrifices were worth it.

In Jabalya refugee camp, where the intifada started on December 8, 1997, you could hardly sense that President Bill Clinton was paying a historic visit to the Palestinian state-in-the-making.

Nearby in the Beach refugee camp, the scene was more festive as hundreds of children, many of

them barefoot, lined the road and waved American flags.

Posters put up by the PA in other parts of the strip said: "Yasser Arafat - the hero of war and peace."

In the Palestinian Authority's historiography, it was the intifada that paved the way for PA leader Yasser Arafat to make the "peace of the brave" with Israel, namely the Oslo process that Clinton is currently seeking to reinforce.

Whether that peace has bettered or worsened the plight of Palestinians and whether the PA has brought closer or made more remote the fulfillment of their

national aspirations is still debatable in Jabalya - but not openly so.

See JABALYA, Page 4

## Covenant vote puts Natorei Karta leader on the spot

By BEN LYNFIELD

While the top leaders of mainstream Palestinian nationalism yesterday affirmed their break with calls for Israel's destruction, there remained a lone voice among them crying out for its obliteration.

It was that of Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, the Natorei Karta leader and virulent anti-Zionist who since the Oslo Accords has gradually found himself outside the PLO consensus symbolized by his friend, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"If they asked me, I would have told them to vote Zionism into the sea," said Hirsch.

Natorei Karta views Israel's existence - regardless of size - as a sacrilege on the grounds that the Jewish state can only be restored with the coming of the messiah.

Wearing his *stetson* into the auditorium where Arafat and President Bill Clinton were about to give historic speeches, Hirsch

took pains to show reporters that he is still an important figure for the PA.

Not only had he been invited to the meeting, but a chauffeur was sent to the Erez crossing to make sure he got there safely, he said.

"I am a member of the Palestinian government. I am the minister for Jewish affairs," he added. This, despite the fact that he does not appear on lists as an official member of the cabinet, does not appear in group photographs of the cabinet, and does not vote in its meetings.

Wearing a mischievous smile, Hirsch took pains to clarify that his solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not as radical as it might initially sound. It does not entail, he said, the throwing of Israelis into the sea.

"I am against throwing people and mammals into the sea," he said. "I am talking about Zionism and rebellious mentalities that should be thrown into the sea."

## Clinton hails PNC's support for revoking covenant

By HILLEL KUTTLER

GAZA CITY—By a show of hands but not a formal vote, the Palestinian National Council yesterday formally supported Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat's changes to the PLO covenant.

President Bill Clinton, climaxing his historic visit to Gaza, hailed the move as a "good thing" that will impress Israelis.

As a result, Clinton said he would request that Congress provide "several hundred million dollars" to the Palestinians.

At Arafat's prompting, the attendees waved their hands and then rose in support for the PLO's recent decisions on the covenant.

Arafat said that for the Palestinians to make peace, they must receive all the territories, "including holy Jerusalem," a resolution to the refugee problem and removal of settlements.

He charged Israel with making a "direct attack" on Palestinians' confidence in the peace process by its "settlement" of Jerusalem and the territories.

"I thank you for your rejection - fully, finally and forever - of the passages in the Palestinian charter calling for the destruction of Israel," Clinton told the delegates in the Rashad Shawwa Cultural Center.

"By revoking them once and for all, you have sent a powerful message not to the government, but the people, of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts. I know how profoundly important this is to the Israelis."

"By turning this page on the past, you are taking the lead in writing a new story for the future."

And you have issued a challenge to the government of Israel to walk down that path with you. I thank you for doing that."

Clinton placed the PNC decision squarely in the context of the peace process, saying that "declaring a change of heart still won't be enough," because "real differences" remain.

"The time has come to sanctify your holy ground with genuine forgiveness and reconciliation," Clinton said. He called on influential Palestinians to cease "glorifying" suicide bombers or preaching peace and violence simultaneously.

"Let me say as clearly as I can: no matter how sharp a grievance, or how deep a hurt, there is no justification for killing innocents," Clinton said.

Clinton's speech combined eloquence about the parties' fears and sufferings with bluntness on the shortcomings in the peace process.

He also incensed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criticism when he related his "two profoundly emotional experiences" in meeting earlier in the day with four Palestinian children whose fathers are jailed in Israel, and with Israeli children the night before whose fathers were killed in the conflict with the Palestinians.

"We must acknowledge that neither side has a monopoly on pain or virtue," Clinton said.

Asked at a news conference last night whether Clinton was equating the two, Netanyahu initially played down the remarks but later said he would make his views known to Clinton at their next meeting.

See PNC, Page 4

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## The Clinton Visit

# Bethlehem awaits Clinton's arrival

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The little town of Bethlehem won't seem so small this afternoon, when President Bill Clinton comes to visit the Church of the Nativity on the final day of his Mideast tour. There were banners, streamers and flags everywhere yesterday, as one would expect, but there were also political signs of every size posted in store windows and hung across the streets the presidential motorcade will navigate.

"We Have a Dream Same as Yours," "Settlements Kill Peace," "Release Our Fathers from Israeli Jails," "We Want Real Peace That Guarantees Freedom for All Palestinian Prisoners" and "Isn't 25 Years of Imprisonment Enough? I Was Born While My Father Was Imprisoned. Please, Release My Father" were some of the hand-painted signs strewn up about town.

There were also printed signs juxtaposing Clinton with his arm raised giving the thumbs-up sign, and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat holding aloft his hand in a "V" salute.

Around Manger Square, workmen continued laying large blocks of polished white stone as part of a Swedish-sponsored rehabilitation project begun in August to completely make over the square.

Storekeepers were told not to open shop from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., which has a few of them angry.

"Why do we need to keep closed for his security?" said one 61-year-old shop owner, who refused to give his name. "If he's scared, he shouldn't come. Let him stay home. His visit doesn't mean a thing to me. The peace process? It makes me laugh."



Stores in Bethlehem display political posters in anticipation of today's visit by US President Bill Clinton. (Kevin Unger)

# Mordechai welcomes PNC decision

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN, BATSHEVA TSUR, and LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai welcomed yesterday's Palestinian approval of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's letter to President Bill Clinton nullifying articles of the Palestinian Covenant hostile to Israel.

Mordechai said in a statement that the "clear support" by members of the PNC and representatives of other Palestinian institutions regarding the cancellation of those sections was an "important step" in carrying out their fundamental obligations under the Wye Memorandum.

Mordechai added that Israel now expects the Palestinians to uphold the rest of their obligations—security and others—in order to progress toward the future with hope.

President Ezer Weizman said yesterday evening he welcomes the PNC's vote and congratulates Clinton and Arafat on their speeches. Weizman also thanked Clinton for taking time off, during such a trying period, in order to push the peace process forward. He said he feels sure that December 14 will go down in history.

As the Palestinian delegates raised their hands to vote in Gaza City, opposition MKs gathered around the television set in the Knesset canteen applauded. Labor's Yael Dayan shook the

hand of former party leader Shimon Peres and Labor MK Salim Tarif called out: "Now Bibi has run out of excuses."

Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) described the decision as "better than the Balfour Declaration, because that took place in London and this was on Palestinian soil."

Peres, who watched the live broadcast from a center seat close to the screen, occasionally smiling and shaking his head in agreement, said the main significance of the vote was Clinton's presence.

"There is nothing else new other than that. Arafat repeated the letter he wrote me in 1996. There is no difference. What we have here is an incredible achievement for the Palestinians. Gaza is 7,000 years old and this is the first time a US president has visited there... Who will remember that they reaffirmed the letter? But that the US president went to the center of the Palestinian Autonomy in Gaza, that people will remember."

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), chairman of the Land of Israel Front, described the vote as a "farce and charade." He said the convention consisted of "everybody but the PNC" and said the only way to abolish the covenant is according to its Article 33, requiring a special meeting with a two-thirds majority.

"No child in the Palestinian autonomy has bought this as the cancellation of the covenant. [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu hopes that some

Israelis will buy it. What happened is that Clinton gave his support to a group of Israel haters whose constitution obliges the destruction of the State of Israel," Kleiner said.

Both Kleiner and the National Religious Party's Nissan Slomiansky said that Netanyahu's support for the move would cause them to vote in favor of early elections on Monday. Slomiansky said that, apart from the Covenant, there are other violations which have not been rectified, such as the unilateral declaration of a state and the prisoner question.

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said, "The willingness by the prime minister to recognize the circus in Gaza as sufficient to abolish the covenant shows he is finally bankrupt and has lost his way."

Ze'evi said the form the vote took was "an insult to democratic institutions."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, on the other hand, said, "The Palestinian Covenant, which died more than two years ago, has now been buried and done with. Now only Netanyahu, with his tricks and acrobatics, can bring it back to life. And only the NRP, in its blindness and rejectionism, can carry out resuscitation on it. For the settlers and other extreme nationalists it's a difficult day. They have forever lost the Palestinian Covenant as an [instrument] with which to undermine the bitter history of the two peoples."

## Change in covenant marks change in PLO

Dr. Menachem Klein is a member of Bar-Ilan University's political science department.

### NEWSLINE

Q: Are the clauses in the Palestinian covenant calling for the destruction of Israel still relevant after being effectively nullified even prior to yesterday's PNC meeting?

A: The changes in the Palestinian covenant were made in stages, first by political steps taken by the PLO and then by a formal decision of the PNC, to amend the covenant, in 1996.

In fact, the PLO had been moving away from the so-called sacred orders of the covenant since 1974. The covenant, for instance, was not even mentioned in the declaration of independence that was accepted by the PNC in Algiers in 1988. After the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, Arafat wrote a letter to then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin declaring that the clauses in question were no longer valid and had been effectively revoked. This has been reaffirmed on several other occasions since, by the PNC itself in 1996 and again yesterday.

Perhaps the covenant still has some relevance for certain political factions in Israel, as well as to the small opposition groups which met recently in Damascus.

Q: Do the Palestinian rejectionist organizations still have any great influence in the territories?

A: These are very small groups which tried unsuccessfully to organize a boycott of the PNC meeting in 1996. They called for a similar boycott of the latest meeting and again failed. These groups are now no more than chapters in the history of the Palestinian national movement. With the exception of Hamas they have no relevance in the Palestinian political arena and no great influence either.

Q: Have the Palestinians themselves really accepted Israel's right to exist or is the revoking of the relevant clauses in the Palestinian covenant simply a temporary means to achieve the ultimate end as defined in the charter—the destruction of Israel and the liberation of all of Palestine?

A: These clauses are no longer valid. Having said that, a new covenant has not yet been written and Israel has not demanded that a new one be drafted in accordance with its guidelines. In my evaluation, the nullification of these clauses represents the changed aspirations of the majority of Palestinians.

Furthermore, the PA leadership has made it clear in preparing for declaring a Palestinian state that this state would encompass the land occupied since 1967 and not before then. Arafat and the PA leadership have defined their view of the borders of such a state. This is their stated policy. I think that most of the Palestinians accept this and have themselves made what is for them a historic com-

promise—to have their own state which would be alongside Israel, not instead of it.

Q: In the event of Arafat's demise or his inability to continue as PA chairman, is there any danger of the collapse of the process and a resurgence of violence?

A: I don't believe so. Arafat's path is the direction being taken by the PA establishment, as well as by the Palestinian people themselves. It is not a one-man show, and most of the leadership accepts Arafat's policies of restraint, as do the people, especially when they can see the rewards and tangible fruits of these policies.

There is no clear leader in the succession stakes, even though Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) appears to be heading the list at the moment. In my opinion, a leader will probably be chosen or elected who will head a coalition that will move forward in the same direction as Arafat and continue his policies. David Rudge

### A Vital Message

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From: David Ben-Gurion

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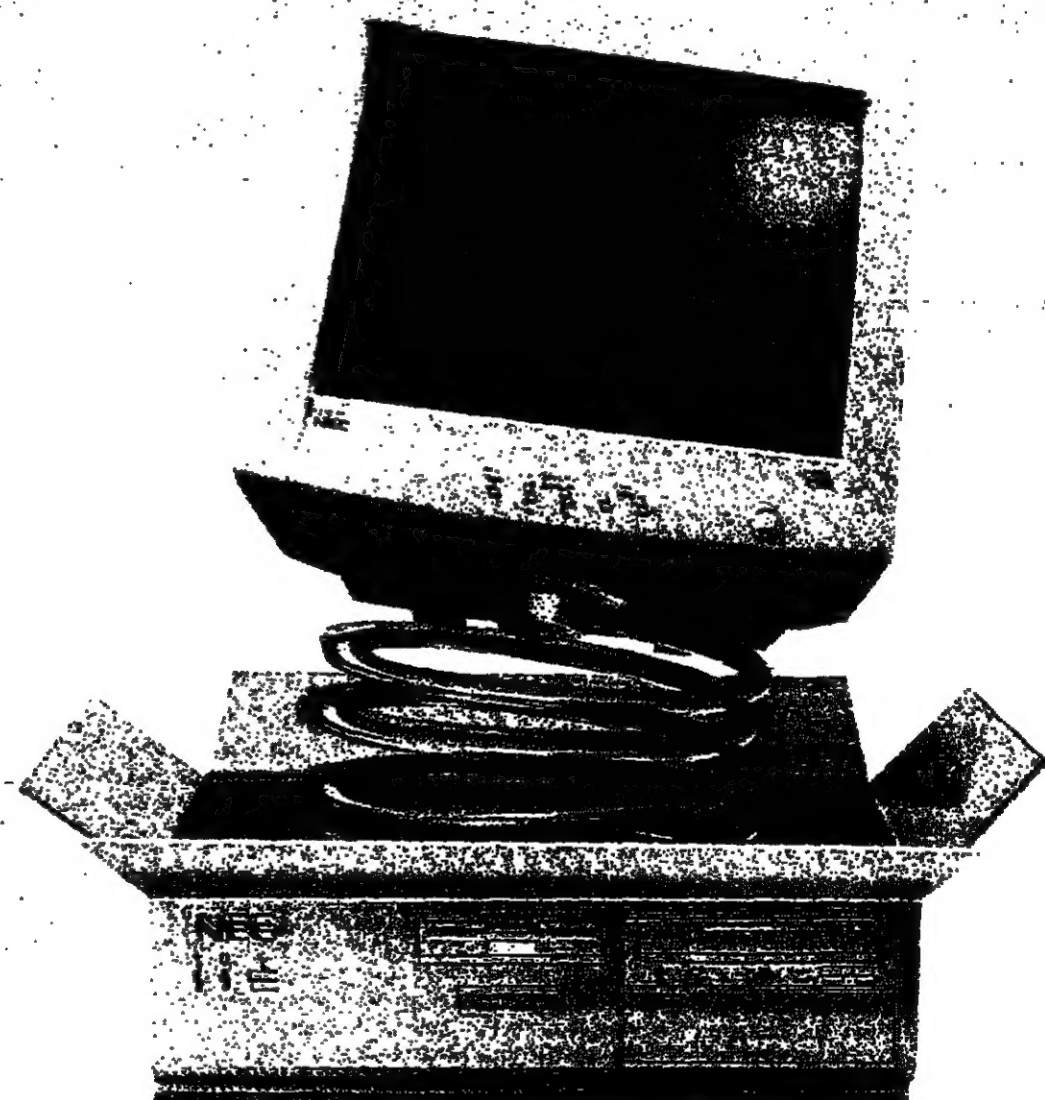
It is the right of the Jewish people over generations, a right which under no conditions can be cancelled.

Even if Jews in a specific period proclaim they are relinquishing this right, they have neither the power nor the authority to deny this right to future generations. No concession of this type is binding or obligates the Jewish people.

Our right to the country—to the entire country—exists as an eternal right, and until the full and completed redemption is realized, we shall not yield our historic right.

David Ben-Gurion (Basle Zionist Congress, 1937)

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President Bill Clinton meets the daughters of Palestinian prisoners during a private meeting in the office of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza yesterday. From left are chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, US national security adviser Sandy Berger, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Clinton, and Arafat. (AP)

## Palestinian girls ask Clinton to aid jailed fathers

In words laced with tears, four Palestinian schoolgirls yesterday pleaded with President Bill Clinton to seek freedom for their fathers held prisoner by Israel.

Witnesses said a somber Clinton told them he would pursue their case with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We welcome you in our homeland, and I want to tell you to pressure Netanyahu to return my father. He has been jailed for life. How can a girl like me live without her father?" asked Fida Zagout, 11, one of four girls who met Clinton. "I've been deprived of touching him for the last 10 years."

Israel freed 250 prisoners last month – the first of 750 due to be released three batches under the Wye agreement.

But Israel's inclusion of 150 common criminals upset Palestinians, who had expected all 250 to be prisoners held for nationalist offenses. Netanyahu countered that he would never free prisoners "with blood on their hands."

"They say we are terrorists and we killed a lot of soldiers. When we kill, one dies. But they kill hundreds and thousands. How could there be peace when the prisoners are still in jail?" Fida

asked Clinton.

"Thank you for coming to see me. Your father would be proud of you," Clinton told the four girls. Witnesses said he took their full names and promised to pursue the case.

"The girls wept because some of them had not seen their fathers since they were one year old. Some of their fathers were sentenced to 20 and more years," said Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

"Clinton wept. We all wept," Shaath said.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat kissed the girls on their foreheads. Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb

Erekat, acting as interpreter for the girls, aged 7 to 11, broke down, asking Clinton's translator to take over.

Although Washington sides with Netanyahu on the prisoner issue, the row – one of the most emotional issues for Palestinians – has prompted violent demonstrations.

Another girl lamented having to spend Id al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of Ramadan, without her father.

"Should the Moslem holiday always pass without my daddy being with us?" she said. "I want to tell the president: Would you give up seeing your daughter for a minute?"

Mordechai tells 'Post':

## 'There are ideas' for prisoner release

By DAMNA HAFMAN

While the government officially rejects the idea, there are nonetheless indications that some sort of compromise on the issue of prisoner release is under way.

"There are ideas, but I don't want to get into details," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. "I imagine that these ideas will be discussed between the sides and [hopefully] they will create an opening for the future."

Another top official confirmed that President Bill Clinton and US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross had brought up several compromise ideas, but that "at the moment we are not going to accept them."

The government, backed by the US, maintains that under the Wye accord Israel is required to release a certain number of prisoners – a side agreement specifies 750 – but that there was never any promise as to precisely which prisoners they would be. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said on more than one occasion that he will release neither those with "blood on their hands" nor Hamas members.

According to the government, there are 1,000-2,000 security prisoners in Israeli jails. Most of them are accused of murder or are either Hamas or Islamic Jihad members. The security prisoners

not in this category – such as Fatah activists and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine members – are eligible for release, as are non-security prisoners, such as car thieves and robbers.

In the first prisoner release carried out last month, 100 security prisoners from the second category, and 150 non-security prisoners went free.

The Palestinians, however, are raising a campaign – complete with hunger strikes and violent demonstrations – to demand the release of more of what they call political prisoners. According to the Palestinians, only 10 percent of those called security prisoners by Israel have "blood on their hands." They are willing to leave the question of their release to final-status talks, but want the others out now.

In response to the escalating violence, the government has officially hardened its position, arguing that the PA is behind the violence and that Israel cannot give in to such pressure.

However, in discussions with Ross, as well as in private discussions with other US officials, many in the government have reportedly expressed understanding of the gravity of the matter and said that a compromise may have to be taken into consideration.

President Ezer Weizman last

week publicly said that he imagined some of the political prisoners would eventually have to be released.

"The violence has to be stopped immediately and there needs to be a return to substantive discussions... Parallel to this, we need to find ways to move forward," said Mordechai, speaking after a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Some of the compromise ideas being discussed are for Israel to release accomplices to murder, but not murderers; to parole some of the longest held and/or oldest prisoners; or to release more prisoners in exchange for more security commitments from the Palestinians.

The idea of a release of Palestinian prisoners being linked to the release by the US of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, and the release of prisoners who have killed Arabs, but not Jews are also being discussed, although these are less likely scenarios.

A senior Palestinian official said yesterday that a US-Israeli-Palestinian committee on prisoner release would be set up to discuss possible solutions to the dispute.

Netanyahu denied that such a committee is to convene, and said that all problems should be resolved in the existing Palestinian-Israeli committee.

## IDF imposes curfew on village after stonethrowing

By MARGOT DUKOVITCH

The IDF imposed a curfew on the village of Silat al-Tzir near Jenin yesterday due to increased stonethrowing at Israeli civilian and security vehicles on the road that runs through the village.

The IDF spokesman said that the commander of the Jenin area, Col. Pini, had met with the pri-

incipal of the local school and asked him to put a halt to the stonethrowing. His request was ignored and it was decided to impose a curfew, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old resident of Shilo was wounded by stones thrown at his vehicle near Ofra. He was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital on Mount Scopus. IDF

forces searched the area.

Early yesterday morning an IDF patrol near Givat Ze'ev reported hearing shots. The IDF spokesman said troops searched the area but found no evidence to support the report.

In Jerusalem, border policemen nabbed three Palestinian youths as they stoned an Egged bus driving near the Rockefeller Museum.

## Roads to Knesset blocked even for MKs

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon now has another bone to pick with US President Bill Clinton. Not only did Clinton fail to include the Knesset on his itinerary, as is customary for visiting heads of state, but the traffic jams in Jerusalem resulting from his presence prevented MKs from arriving at the House on time for committee meetings.

Several MKs complained to Tichon they were not allowed to pass blocked roads to get to the Knesset even though they displayed their parliamentary identity cards.

Shinui leader Avraham Poraz was stopped by a policewoman at the corner of Herzl and Wolfson and was not allowed to pass, despite his parliamentary ID. Poraz said the policewoman told him she had not even let cabinet secretary Dan Naveh pass.

"Preventing the movement of MKs, particularly to and from the Knesset building, is a violation of Israeli law," Tichon said.

A Jerusalem police spokesman rejected the claims yesterday, saying MKs' movements had not been blocked and they had not received

### NOTEBOOK

By LIAT COLLINS, JUDY SIEGEL, and MARGOT DUKOVITCH

any complaints.

CLINTON'S maneuvers caused another upset yesterday morning. A 95-year-old Jerusalem woman broke her leg and was hospitalized at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem after being blown off her feet by the rotor wash of the presidential helicopters.

The woman was going down the steps of the Botanical Gardens near the Hebrew University Stadium, where five helicopters were to take the president and his party to Gaza. Her leg was put in a cast in the emergency room, but because of her advanced age it was decided to hospitalize her in the orthopedics department for observation.

A US SECRET Service agent has been spending all his time since Saturday night at Hadassah in Ein Kerem, in the event that Clinton should take ill. Hadassah was cho-

sen to be on standby, because of its advanced trauma unit.

A room has been set aside with special communications equipment, manned by the Secret Service 24 hours a day.

Clinton's personal physician met with Hadassah doctors and even checked the corridors leading from the trauma unit to the operating theaters.

AMONG those present at Sunday night's gala dinner hosted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, in honor of Clinton and his wife, Hillary, were Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel and Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza chairman Pinhas Wallerstein.

After much debate and criticism from other council members, council director Aharon Domb decided to forgo the dinner. Council sources said Wallerstein and Kashriel went up to Netanyahu, who introduced them to Clinton. Sara Netanyahu pointed out to Clinton that Wallerstein was denied entry to Wye Plantation.

achievements. Awad, a student, said: "There is daily security here, without the Israeli army entering. The airport is a great thing for the Palestinians, and hopefully, the seaport will also open."

Said Ibrahim Ali Mohammed, who runs a paint store: "I was able to come back to Jabalya because of the peace process."

He was born in the camp, moved away to Abu Dhabi in 1975 and was unable to return until after the Oslo Agreement.

Salah Tamari, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, predicted yesterday that warmer PA ties with Washington will benefit Palestinians in the territories.

"It serves the welfare of our people to become closer to the US government," he said. "Of course, there are a few people, a minority, who can never be satisfied."

## Experiencing the news on a West Bank road

Cars traveling down the wide and smooth highway bypassing the West Bank town of Husan yesterday came under a hail of stones. It's happened before.

This time the radio was playing history as President Bill Clinton was touching down at Gaza International Airport.

Suddenly swarming down the hill below the village mosque came half a dozen kids. They ran towards the road, some dressed in acrylic sweaters, others their faces wrapped in full, flowing kaffiyeh glory. And they hurled stones and small boulders at the cars passing by.

This reporter naturally crouched, swerved and gunned it out of there.

But the guy across the street screamed to a halt and incredibly got out, cocked a mini M-16 assault gun, pointed it straight at the kids

### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

and casually started shooting.

The only air he seemed to be aiming for was the air in the lungs of those stone-throwing kids. The pack quickly turned around and ran. None were seen to fall. In a matter of seconds this reporter was over the hill and bearing straight for the Border Police roadblock to report the incident. Two jeeps went tearing off in the direction of the clash.

Being a wire reporter for many years, this reporter felt the urgent need to return with the

Israeli forces and call in the story. What story?

There have been scores of incidents of stone throwings in the past week. Israeli civilians have opened fire at least half a dozen times after being ambushed on the roads. Only this time this reporter's jeep was the target of the stones and witness to the rage of an Israeli driver, whose vehicle did not appear to have been hit. Does that make it any more newsworthy?

The IDF spokesman said Israeli forces which went to the scene did not find any signs of shooting, but stressed that the army views opening fire by Israeli civilians very seriously, although it is apt to condone it if justified.

Since news of the incident did not filter up to the senior levels, there was no one to either condone nor admonish the Israeli gunman. The stone throwers too escaped without judgement.

### VOTE

Continued from Page 1

The government has made movement on its part conditional on the PA implementation of the following checklist: Chairman Yasser Arafat must denounce the intention to unilaterally declare statehood on May 4, 1999; he must begin with confiscating illegal weapons (the government claims that only some 400 of tens of thousands of illegal weapons have been collected); the Palestinian Police must be reduced; the 30 fugitives wanted by Israel must be jailed; security cooperation, especially the exchange of intelligence, which according to the government has been all but frozen over the past two weeks, must resume; and the PA must acknowledge that it has no ground to demand the release of more security prisoners, and immediately move to quell the growing violence in the West Bank.

Netanyahu stressed that the charter had been changed due to Israel's stubborn insistence, and that the lesson to be learned was that this is the way to make the Palestinians fulfill their commitments.

"Today is an important day for Israel," Netanyahu said. "Fifty years after our establishment, 35

years after the Palestinian Covenant calling for our destruction was adopted, and five years after the Palestinians promised to nullify that charter, it happened today. And it happened because, first and foremost, we stood strong on our demand that this need happen."

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he was "very sorry" to hear Netanyahu's reaction. "It is time Netanyahu took the high road and moved to fulfill his commitments."

He heard our message of peace loud and clear today, and he cannot continue hiding behind invalid pretexts," said Erekat. "The man who invented the term reciprocity is now running away from it."

Netanyahu, who, like Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, claimed he had not watched the broadcast of the PNC meeting, nonetheless pointed to what he saw as some grave problems with Clinton's speech.

"Of course, there is no symmetry between us and the Palestinians. It is not us who sent out murderers, not us who sent out car bombs. We do not believe in terror... and the place for someone who kills innocent people is behind bars," he said in reference to Clinton's statement equating

children of security prisoners and children of victims of terror.

A senior official spoke in far harsher terms, saying Netanyahu was furious with the comparison. "No one in his right mind could make this moral equivalency," he said. "I wonder if Clinton would dare say the same thing about the children of the World Trade Center bomber. He is giving naïveté a bad name."

Clinton, by the way, never met with children of terror victims, as he claimed in his speech to the PNC.

The official added that there was also anger at Clinton's reference to making peace with the people of Israel, not with the government. "We are a democratic state, and he cannot go over the head of the elected government that way," he said, adding that both matters would be brought up with the US administration.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, who instigated the demand for a vote, and who did watch the whole meeting, had a different gripe. "This was a step, but a modest step and not any giant leap. Arafat missed the opportunity to speak of ending the war with Israel. He spoke of peace over and over, but failed to mention that it was peace with Israel... until his very last sen-

### PNC

Continued from Page 2

Midway through his 35-minute speech, Clinton made a pitch for Israel and the Palestinians to re-emerge their cooperation and cease their "gnashing of teeth" approach to making peace.

"The fulfillment of one side's aspirations must not come at the expense of the other. We must believe that everyone can win..."

"Now it will take good faith, mutual respect and compromise to forge a final agreement... You and they must now determine what kind of peace you will have. Will it be grudging and mean-spirited and confining, or will it be generous and open?"

After a late-night meeting Clinton held with the visiting legislators, congressman Rick Lazio said the president was "cautiously buoyant" about the PNC development and Netanyahu's reaction.

### GAZA

Continued from Page 2

As 3:30 p.m. approached, the time scheduled for the PNC meeting, delegates pulled up in their cars.

The security cordon that kept journalists off the steps weakened and they freely interviewed the new arrivals. Participants climbed the steps and when a crush developed at the door, Palestinian officials delayed their entrance for 30 seconds at a time.

Badges checked, delegates proceeded through.

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Mordechai to Albright:

'Our patience is thin on Lebanon'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DAVID RUDGE

The country's patience is wearing thin over Lebanon and a solution must be found before it is too late, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in a breakfast meeting yesterday.

"The situation in Lebanon has an inherent potential for a security deterioration," Mordechai told Albright. "Our patience is not without limits, and it's preferable to find a security arrangement prior to a conflict and not afterward, as a deterioration of the situation in Lebanon can badly influence the entire region and the whole peace process." Joined by Uri Lubrani, long-time government coordinator of activities in Lebanon, Mordechai held Syria responsible for events there.

"The Syrians bear direct and indirect responsibility for what goes on in Lebanon," Mordechai said.

Defense sources said that Mordechai repeated that Israel wants to resume peace talks with the Syrians. But he added that the conditions they have made for their return to the table are unacceptable.

Albright did not bring anything new regarding Syria, the sources said.

"We are in Lebanon for purely security needs and we will leave if the Lebanese Army takes full responsibility for the region," Mordechai told reporters afterward. The Four Mothers movement, meanwhile,

is urging President Bill Clinton to use his influence to help enable a peaceful IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

Movement chairwoman Rachel Ben-Dor said that representatives of the organization met with the president and his wife Hillary shortly before they left Jerusalem International Convention Center on Sunday night.

"The meeting was held in a side room. Our representatives spoke with president and his wife and gave them written material about our activities," said Ben-Dor, who was not present herself.

"They said the president listened carefully and nodded his head several times, while Hillary Clinton expressed a desire to help and said she was interested in reading the

material they were given.

"Our message is very simple - to find a way to end the bloodshed in Lebanon, because if there is no solution, the situation there could easily deteriorate and disrupt if not undo the peace process and everything that has been achieved so far."

In a related development, Israel yesterday submitted a further complaint to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over Hizbullah's firing of mortars from within Jaba village, north of the security zone, during fighting in the region on Sunday. No date has yet been fixed for a meeting of the five-nation committee which was established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996.



An exchange of gifts

The lord mayor of London, Lord (Peter) Levene (left), exchanges gifts yesterday with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. Levene, who is on an official visit with a delegation from London, gave Huldai an engraved silver platter, and received the Tel Aviv 'town clock' in exchange.

Knesset Pollard caucus asks to meet Clinton

By NINA GILBERT

The Knesset yesterday called on President Bill Clinton to meet with a delegation of MKs pressing for him to pardon convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor) said the Knesset should send a clear message to Clinton while he is here that the Israeli people is asking him to pardon Pollard. Pines-Paz, who heads the Knesset's Pollard caucus, was speaking during a debate on Pollard approved as a last-minute addition to the agenda.

"I hope that the president won't ignore the Knesset's decision and will nevertheless meet with its delegation," he said.

Pines-Paz said he relayed another request for the meeting last night to cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, although he was previously told that the president's tight schedule would not allow for a meeting with the caucus.

The Knesset concluded the debate by affirming a declaration signed by 78 MKs from across the political spectrum. "We don't disagree with the punishment imposed on Pollard, but ask that President Clinton take into consideration Pollard's condition after 13 years in prison," it says.

Pines-Paz said Clinton would release Pollard if he were not put under pressure by other elements in the US government.

"But while the US is asking Israel to make huge risks for the peace process... we are asking for a humanitarian measure that doesn't endanger US security or its prestige," he said.

Pines-Paz commended Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his appeal Sunday to Clinton to release Pollard on humanitarian grounds. Netanyahu previously sought Pollard's release at the Wye River talks, and Clinton is to review the matter after receiving a report soon from the relevant US agencies.

Pines-Paz said that, although he is among the prime minister's biggest critics, Netanyahu has done more than any other government. "But even this is not enough," he said. "We are talking about a person who is paying a price for a mistake made by Israel."

Hanan Porat (NRP) said Israel's request for Pollard's release is very relevant, considering that Israel is being asked to make a peace gesture and release prisoners who present a security risk.

However, Shevah Weiss (Labor) questioned whether a public campaign is the best tactic in obtaining Pollard's release, especially given the friendly relations between the US and Israel.

Azmi Bishara (Hadash) called the campaign "hypocritical," and noted that despite Israel's deep strategic relationship with the US, someone had decided that Israel must know everything. He noted that Israel had also imprisoned spies who had acted out of dual loyalty.

NEWS in brief

Likud joins Tel Aviv City Council

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai (Labor) and Likud faction head Eitan Sulami yesterday signed a coalition agreement, under which Sulami will be a deputy mayor. The city council president will also be from the Likud Party. At its first meeting yesterday, Tel Aviv's newly elected city council approved the appointments of deputy mayors Udi Neta (Dor Shalom) and of a Meretz representative. The party has not decided whether to give the position to Michael Ro'eh or Michal Eden. Naftali Lubart (United Torah Judaism) said he is still negotiating with Huldai to join the coalition. Heidi J. Giehl

Avital continues leave, suspension ends

Colette Avital, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for European affairs, is continuing her leave until the end of a police investigation, despite a decision by the ministry to end her two-week suspension. Avital had been suspended on suspicion that she had leaked classified material to a journalist at Ha'aretz.

Sources said that Avital, who denied the report, would return to work only when the police complete the investigation. Police have not yet questioned her. Itim

Hoter-Yishai indictment to be reconsidered

The State Prosecutor's Office announced yesterday that it would reconsider its decision to quash the contempt of court indictment against Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai. The announcement came at a High Court hearing on a petition by the Movement for Quality Government that the indictment be reinstated. The court gave the State Prosecutor's Office 10 days to reach a decision.

Hoter-Yishai was indicted for his verbal attack on Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Ziva Hadassi-Herman after his conviction on tax charges. The indictment was quashed after Hoter-Yishai apologized to Hadassi-Herman. But Hoter-Yishai attacked her again after the quashing, leading the State Attorney's Office to reconsider. Itim

Police denied call data from alleged 'tapper'

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court rejected on Sunday a police request for a cellphone and Bezeq transcription of outgoing calls from journalist Tal Ariel-Amir, who works for the weekly Tel Aviv. The police requested the printout during their investigation of suspected wiretapping by journalists of conference calls between Dan area police commanders.

Yesterday, Ariel requested a temporary injunction for the court not to respond to any requests for a record of her calls; however, the judge said there was no need for it, given the rejection of the police request the day before. Itim

Interfaith meetings under way

Jewish and Orthodox Christian theologians and scholars are meeting this week near Jerusalem as part of an ongoing series of meetings between the two faiths, aimed at achieving greater understanding. At the opening ceremony at the Ma'aleh Hahamisha Hotel yesterday, Metropolitan Damaskinos Papandreu of Switzerland pointed out that in the past, contact between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity had been primarily in the form of polemics and religious rivalry. This, he said, led to an erroneous reading of the divine revelation as set out in the sacred works of both sides, each intent on showing the errors of the other religion. Haim Shapiro

Conference marking Korczak's birth opens

A conference marking 120 years since the birth of Polish educator Janusz Korczak begins today at Beit Lohamei Hageta'ot at Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot. It will focus on various aspects of his life and its relevance to today's Israel.

The international conference will focus on the Education Ministry's theme for the school year, "The Right to Respect and the Duty to Respect," and will include presentations from academics, researchers, psychologists, teachers, and students from Israel and abroad, among them representatives from Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, the US, Canada, Great Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, and Brazil. Jerusalem Post Staff

Education Ministry clashes with civil rights, gay groups

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Education Ministry's theme for the year, "The Right to Respect and the Duty to Respect," does not extend to homosexuals, civil and gay rights groups charged yesterday.

They were protesting an Education Ministry decision not to include material about homosexuals and lesbians at its education fair on the annual theme, opening today at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

The High Court of Justice, which they had petitioned to force the ministry to allow them to participate, ruled yesterday that while there is some merit to their arguments, they had filed their petition too late to overturn the ministry's decision.

The petition was presented by Klaf - the feminist lesbian community in Israel, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), the Association of Homosexuals, Lesbians, and Bisexuals in Israel,

and Kibbutz Tuval which had also intended to present material related to homosexuals and lesbians and AIDS education, an ACRI spokeswoman said.

The Education Ministry spokesman was unavailable for comment. According to ACRI, the ministry published notices asking the public to present educational material on various subjects related to individual rights to be presented at the fair.

Prof. Ozer Schild, chairman of the ministry's pedagogical secretariat, rejected Klaf's request to participate, telling it the ministry had decided to give priority to matters involving relations within the education system, rifts in Israeli society, and matters involving families which produce children. According to ACRI, Schild said homosexuality and lesbianism did not fall under these categories, and therefore has no place at the fair.

German Holocaust debate seeks new language

By PAUL GEITNER

BERLIN (AP) - The two leading players in a new German debate over how to remember the Holocaust agreed in their first face-to-face meeting that the right language for Germany's past had yet to be found. In a weekend discussion arranged by the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper and published yesterday, German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis retracted his earlier charge that a speech about the Holocaust memory by prize-winning author Martin Walser amounted to "spiritual arson."

In the October speech, Walser had warned against "exploitation" of German guilt about the Holocaust "for present purposes,"

and said that the horror of Auschwitz should not become "a routine threat."

In their face-to-face meeting, Bubis said he believed Walser had "the very best intentions," but accused him of lending indirect support to neo-Nazis by speaking in imprecise terms.

Walser said he was referring generally to media coverage of German unification; for example, when Auschwitz was cited by some critics as a just reason for Germany's Cold War division, and that reuniting the country would "inevitably" lead to a new Auschwitz.

He also was angry with critics who fault a new German literature that doesn't mention the Holocaust. He said he wanted to "find a lan-

guage in which many people can see themselves expressed - because to the end how they think of Auschwitz remains left to them."

Both Walser and Bubis agreed that an appropriate language for dealing with Germany's past has yet to be found.

Meanwhile, Germany's new culture minister yesterday proposed abandoning long-debated plans for a giant Holocaust memorial in Berlin and building a Holocaust museum, research center, and park on the site instead. Michael Naumann told Berlin's Tagesspiegel newspaper that the new concept he is working on would be aimed above all at educating young people about the Holocaust, rather than simply erecting a "landscape of stone."

Pimps buy prostitute for \$5,000 - earn up to \$50,000, say police

By LIAT COLLINS

Women are sold into the sex business in Israel for between \$5,000 and \$15,000, while the pimps who buy them can earn between \$10,000 and \$50,000 a year per woman. These are some of the figures presented by police investigator Dep.-Cmdr. Avi Davidovich at a meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday on the international trade in women.

According to the Israel Women's Network, some 2,000 women are brought to Israel a year from the CIS and forced by pimps to work as prostitutes. Many are brought here on false pretenses and held against their will, according to

women's groups. Nativ head Ya'acov Kedmi, whose organization forwards intelligence material from the CIS to the Internal Security Ministry, said the problems could be drastically reduced within a month if a special police unit dealing with the issue were established to centralize the data.

"Right now, the policeman at Ben-Gurion Airport can do nothing and the policeman on the street in Bat Yam can do nothing, and they don't even talk to each other," Kedmi said. He said the police put the trade in women lower on their order of priorities than the drug trade, security, and even car thefts.

Police Asst.-Cmdr. Ina Wolf

agreed with Kedmi regarding the problems regarding the lack of correlated data. Wolf and Davidovich said a model is being prepared to handle the phenomenon and the report would be shortly forwarded to the decision makers.

Irit Omani, director of the Haifa Emergency Shelter for Women, said that on five occasions recently she has accepted at the shelter women who were exploited as prostitutes, even though the shelter framework is not suitable for them. She said the women who agree to give evidence against the pimps and traders should be given the status of state witnesses and protected.

She also said the matter should not be seen as a women's issue but a social issue, particularly "because we are fast heading in the direction of trade in minors for prostitution and slavery." Israel Women's Network lawyer Rachel Ben-Zimman also said the women who agree to give evidence against their pimps should be protected. She said, however, in many cases they are simply deported directly to their homelands, where the traders can find and kill them.

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Gov't urged to establish desalination plants

The government is taking a risk by not immediately building desalination plants. Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir yesterday told a meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee. He said that in future years the combined factors of Israel's population growth and increased water consumption by the Palestinian Authority could leave the country without water reserves in a dry season.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said his ministry, together with the National Infrastructure Ministry, had prepared a plan for seawater desalination plants, which if approved by the government could start being implemented immediately. He said Israel cannot "remain at the mercy of the weather."

A Finance Ministry official, however, disagreed with the urgency and said the problems could be solved now by using treated sewage for agriculture.

Wadi Ara lacks emergency services

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday learned that between Hadera and Afula there are no emergency services capable of immediately handling disasters, such as the fire at Umm el-Fahm in which three children died last

week. There are, however, plans to establish a Magen David Adom station in Umm el-Fahm.

Committee chairman Micha Goldman (Labor) said the MKs would demand to receive the schedule for establishing MDA and firefighting stations in the Wadi Ara area. The meeting was held in the presence of Mohamed Awad, the father of the dead children.

MK Hashem Mahmeed (Hadash), a relative of the family, said the firefighters arrived after 22 minutes.

MDA director Avi Zohar said the deployment of ambulances was determined in 1982 and has not been updated since. He claimed that mayors prefer to invest in sidewalks and fountains rather than emergency services.

The commander of the Hadera Firefighters, Arieh Yitzhak, said that even had a fire station existed in Umm el-Fahm it would not have prevented the tragedy, because only the family could have detected the outbreak of the fire.

Umm el-Fahm Mayor Raad Salah said the municipality is willing to establish a fire and ambulance station at the entrance to the city. A representative of the National

Firefighting and Rescue Service, Benny Weinerman, said the creation of a fire station in Umm el-Fahm had been delayed by bureaucracy. Some NIS 500,000 for it appears in the 1999 budget. He said it is particularly urgent to have an emergency vehicle in the area, because the Wadi Ara road is known as a traffic accident hot spot.

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Education Committee yesterday readied for final readings a bill under which at least half the songs played on state

Bill for Hebrew songs on radio

radio stations would be in Hebrew. The bill is being promoted by Yona Yahav (Labor), who said that since he first raised it there has been some improvement in the situation. "Then most of the songs heard on the radio were foreign-language songs. Now, in effect, Reshet Gimel (Radio 3) plays only Israeli songs," he noted.

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), said, "This bill is a message about our heritage and the Israeli and local culture which is developing in Israel. It's good that Radio 3 plays only Israeli songs, but it is important that things be determined by law to emphasize the commitment of appreciation of the Israeli legislator to Israeli music."

AT THE KNESSET

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## Euro-baby blues

Whenever troubles arise in the European Union, one of the national leaders inevitably dismisses it as a "family quarrel."

It sounds very cozy, but we all know how nasty they can be.

Momentous times are at hand for the EU, and the world (that means you too, Americans) will soon be paying more attention to this unique club of 15 diverse and rich nations than it has in the past.

Few Americans are aware that for the first time in 50 years the top-dog dollar has a brazen new pup getting ready to snap at its hind legs.

The euro is slouching toward Brussels to be born. Its birthday is known, and it's only 16 days away - January 1, 1999.

That may explain the grumpiness of the nervous parents. Despite the much-vaunted "new leftness" that abounds in Europe, the top three new lefties have been by turns over-enthusiastic and over-edgy with one another of late.

A summit last weekend of EU leaders in Vienna left an image of happy family members smiling broadly through clenched teeth, as if there lurked an unproved suspicion that someone was trying to make off with the silver.

### Red Oscar

Prime ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Lionel Jospin of France have been full of enthusiasm for Germany's new-center chancellor, Gerhard Schröder. On the other hand, Blair and French President Jacques Chirac are less than enthusiastic about Schröder's old-red finance minister, Oscar Lafontaine.

Lafontaine sent a shudder through the British establishment just before the summit with a suggestion that the European Council adopt majority voting on tax issues, and harmonize tax collection across the EU.

"That would end Britain's right to veto higher tax demands from Brussels. The very idea let slip the British tabloid dogs of abuse, slaving at the mouth about dastardly red Huns."

Britain's indignant true-blue Conservatives at last had a Euro-bone to chew on, too: "We knew it all along - this new center nonsense is all a plot to restore tax-and-spend economies run by meddling governments bent on creating a nightmare super-Eurostate."

As in the best of family intrigues, this nudged aside a sub-plot - French jealousy that a Tony-Gerhard alliance would push Jacques to the side, now that he's lost his Helmut.

Not a bit of it - a week before the Vienna summit, there was the Potsdam summit. This was no replay of the old four-power postwar get-together; it was strictly a Franco-German affair, at which Schröder helped Chirac celebrate his 66th birthday in the bosom of the "Euro-family."

Key money

However, as in family disputes, unspoken money problems generate the most acid.

Germany pays \$12 billion into the Euro-budget per year; France pays only \$340 million.

Schröder is not Helmut Kohl, who was willing to pay ad infinitum for the grand ideal of a united Europe as a bulwark against the (German) sins of the past.

Expect trouble ahead on this key-money problem, with more British indignation as a catalyst.

Schröder is more of a new German than a new centrist. Next year Germany will again become a Berlin, rather than a Bonn, republic and Schröder is willing to take a more assertive and self-confident pose to match the symbolic change.

That word "confident" brings us neatly back to January and the euro. The last thing the European Union needs to do right now is to give markets the impression that its compass is waving indecisively, unsure of the political poles.

What the individual EU states, except perhaps France and Germany, have not yet grasped is the enormous power and responsibility that is looming as they bring forth the world's second reserve currency.

Europeans have not created, nor for the most part do they want, a united federal continent. With a united continental currency, they may be getting more of it than they bargained for. The EU will suddenly be a lot greater than the sum of its fractious parts, and the European Central Bank will spring from unknown nothingness to go eyeball to eyeball with the Federal Reserve.

Sorry, old chaps

Of course, Britain has opted out of the first launch of the euro, a destabilizing little legacy of little-England myopia from the previous government.

The promise and the problems, the logic and the fallacy of it all, have spawned two schools of euro-prophets.

One views the coming of the euro as astronomers might eye an approaching asteroid - with appalled fascination. The impact will fragment the EU with runaway unemployment, inflation and inter-state squabbles and recriminations.

The other school is one of bright lights and heavenly choirs, waiting for the gleaming euro to descend and save mankind. Along with medieval exchange rates, its magnificence and power will sweep away all manner of evils - bureaucracy, inefficiency, price-fixing, monopolies.

Life, as it does, will settle somewhere in the common-sense, dull, untidy middle. The euro will be neither disaster nor miracle. Some dull, efficient central bank manager will look up and say: "Well, it's here, but there's a lot of work to be done."

And everyone will wonder why they didn't think of that a long time ago.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

By EDWIN CHEN

The US Senate is in full session, but that's not Vice President Al Gore presiding. It's Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, somber in his black robe.

Arrayed before the chief justice in semicircles, 55 Republicans to his left and 45 Democrats to his right, the senators sit behind their flip-top mahogany desks in unaccustomed silence. If they have anything to say, they must put it in writing and send it up to Rehnquist.

Welcome to the trial of the century - the extraordinary proceeding that could unfold early next year if the House of Representatives approves articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton.

That the 91 men and nine women are barred from speaking - like jurors in courtrooms all across America - is one of the few concrete rules in place.

In a Senate trial to oust a president, there are no set rules of evidence, there is no definition of burden of proof. And the inevitable procedural clashes may well engender partisan wrangling that drags the proceedings well into the spring and possibly beyond.

"I can think of hundreds of issues," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah. "This could tie up the Senate for a year or more."

The Constitution requires a two-thirds vote to overturn a national election and fire a chief executive. But on virtually every other issue along the way, the Senate can do what it wants by a simple majority vote - including shutting down the proceeding altogether.

As the House nears an impeachment vote that seems too close to call, the Senate side of the Capitol has become rife with partisan maneuverings and logistical preparations. As remarkable as the impeachment debate has been in the House, that spectacle will pale beside what may come next.

THE Senate has conducted 14 trials: of 12 judges, one cabinet member and one president. Andrew Johnson escaped removal from office in 1868 when the Senate failed a single vote short of the two-thirds majority necessary to convict.

Intense partisanship engulfed nearly all the trials, according to

# Trial of the century

If the House of Representatives approves articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, partisan wrangling could drag out the proceedings for a year



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde is expected to serve as 'manager' - that is, prosecutor - of the case against Clinton.

Eleanor Bushnell and Michael J. Gerhardt, authors of books on impeachment. And unlike rulings in most courts of law, impeachment trials have not established precedents for those that followed.

"Each one is essentially new, and a product of the political environment in which it takes place," Bushnell said.

Even without partisanship, an impeachment trial would pose a dizzying array of legal issues. Gerhardt, a William and Mary College law professor, said the Senate would have to consider seriously several procedural issues: "Do you rely on transcripts or live witnesses? Does executive privilege apply? Does the attorney-client privilege apply?"

A trial also raises the prospect of key figures in the scandal, such as Monica Lewinsky and Linda Tripp, being called to testify under oath in the Senate chamber about the salacious details of the affair. Those details are at the core of the perjury allegations against Clinton.

Rehnquist, himself the author of a book on two impeachment trials, would be empowered to rule on evidentiary matters and other motions. But a simple majority of sena-

tors could overrule his decisions. "I can envision the better part of January might be spent trying to clean up just the procedural issues," Gerhardt said.

THE new Senate convenes on January 6. Only after the eight newly elected members are sworn in can it officially receive a notice of impeachment from the House.

Three of the new members - Democrat Charles E. Schumer of New York and Republicans Jim Bunning of Kentucky and Michael D. Crapo of Idaho - will actually have voted as House members on whether to send Clinton's case to the Senate.

Then the Senate will set a time and date to formally receive House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., who is expected to serve as "manager" - that is, prosecutor - of the case against Clinton. The president may choose anyone to represent him.

On the Senate floor, Hyde would read the articles of impeachment. Then the Senate would adopt an order setting a time and date for the trial to commence.

At 1 p.m. on opening day, Rehnquist would be sworn in -

either by Gore or, if the vice president opted not to participate, by the Senate president pro tem, Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

After taking their oaths as jurors, senators would summon the president - or his lawyers - to appear for trial.

Clinton is not required to attend and is expected to maintain a healthy distance from the Senate floor.

Next would come 30 days or so for the White House to prepare its response to the articles of impeachment, followed by perhaps 10 days for Hyde's team to respond.

"At that point we start probably with motions, such as a motion to dismiss," Dove said.

Several Senate Democrats are drafting censure resolutions to short-circuit a full-blown trial. But it is far from clear that a majority of senators - including some traditionalist Democrats - would agree to what Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., called "a co-opt" of the Senate's constitutional duties.

Once motions and procedural issues were settled, Dove said, "we start the evidentiary period - witnesses are called, examined by one side and then cross-examined,

just as in a trial."

What amounts to the jury deliberation would take place behind closed doors, with each senator allowed to speak for no more than 15 minutes.

The casting of the verdict would come in open chamber, with each senator standing to announce his or her decision after individually choosing from among three possible burdens of proof: beyond a reasonable doubt, clear and convincing, or preponderance of evidence.

If a two-thirds majority - 67 of the 100 senators - votes to convict on just one article of impeachment, Clinton would immediately cease to be president. It's an open question, Dove said, whether senators would continue voting on the other articles.

After conviction, the senate could exercise its further prerogative of barring - by a simple majority vote - the president from ever holding again "any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States."

If 34 or more senators voted to acquit the president on all charges, he would remain in office.

VIRTUALLY no one believes Senate Republicans could attract the 12 Democrats they would need to reach the 67 senators required for conviction, although former California congressman Leon Panetta, who served Clinton as White House chief of staff, said nothing in this drama could be taken for granted.

"If you go to trial and these witnesses are all presented for the first time and cross-examined, you can't just assume it's a done deal as far as the Senate is concerned," he said.

The last time the Senate adopted rules governing impeachment trials was in 1986. The rules address a host of issues large and small - including even the precise time of day when the Senate is supposed to convene.

But sprinkled throughout the 101-page rule book is a key phrase - "unless otherwise ordered by the Senate" - that lets the Senate adopt whatever rules it chooses.

The rules are laced with all kinds of caveats, said a top Senate Republican leadership aide.

This much is sure: Clinton would have nowhere to appeal a conviction.

"You lose here," Dove said, "you've lost." (Los Angeles Times)

## US servicemen investigated for drug-running

By H.G. REZA

The American military has encountered an unexpected enemy in its war on drugs: US servicemen smuggling marijuana and cocaine into California for Mexican drug rings.

At least 50 Marines and sailors have been investigated for drug running "in recent years," according to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Eight military probes involving 20 Marine and Navy suspects were launched in the past year alone, officials said in response to a Los Angeles Times inquiry.

And investigators said five of

the cases involved Marines suspected of driving narcotics through Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego, apparently to help traffickers avoid the Border Patrol checkpoint on nearby Interstate 5. Officials refused to provide names of the suspects or other details about the smuggling cases, including how many were prosecuted or convicted.

The number of service members implicated in smuggling is relatively small compared to the more than 100,000 sailors and Marines stationed in the San Diego area. But the development represents an insidious twist in the corrupting influence of the drug trade, which previously has spawned bribery investigations and convictions of several federal border agents.

Records show that some servicemen who were arrested by federal drug agents worked for major Mexican drug rings. Authorities say most, if not all, of these rings have ties to the violent Arellano-Felix cartel of Tijuana, Mexico, that funnels tons of cocaine and marijuana into the US.

OFFICIALS were reluctant to discuss the investigations because a number are ongoing. However, some acknowledged privately that they are surprised and dismayed that any servicemen were involved in smuggling at a time that the military has been used to help stem the flow of drugs across the border.

"Overall, we don't consider [military drug smugglers] a [big] problem," said a senior federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "But it's one that interests us because you don't expect military personnel to be involved in drug

smuggling."

In one case, an active duty Marine sneaked marijuana shipments into the US by using a rubber speedboat to elude Coast Guard and Navy radar. Under cover of night, the drugs were delivered to waiting vehicles at San Diego County beaches.

Military authorities said some servicemen were recruited at Tijuana nightspots and allegedly paid to transport drugs across the border in private vehicles.

Marines and sailors, they said, evidently were chosen because their clean-cut looks made them less likely to be searched.

Debbie Hartman, spokeswoman for the US attorney in San Diego, said her office does not track convictions by occupation and does not know how many servicemen have been convicted of smuggling.

Pentagon officials said they do not know how many servicemen

have been court-martialed and convicted for drug smuggling - nor how many from each branch are now under investigation.

IN the last two years, US Customs Service agents have investigated 10 to 15 cases of active-duty military men and reservists involved in narcotics trafficking, according to a federal official familiar with the probes.

Investigations by US Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration agents have resulted in the indictment of at least two Marines during the past year, and one National Guard soldier is a fugitive, records show.

Smuggling cases targeting dozens of military personnel have arisen while US Army, California National Guard and Marine units were conducting drug interdiction patrols along the border.

Earlier this year, a customs intelligence memo suggested that traffickers still were using Camp Pendleton - a 125,000-acre installation about 60 miles from Tijuana.

The February 25 memo obtained by The Times said an informant told investigators that the Arellano-Felix cartel transports small loads of marijuana through the base to avoid a Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 5.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent Wayne Clookie said two civilians were arrested on the base in November 1997 for transporting 52 pounds (24 kg.) of marijuana.

"They attempted to cross the base to avoid the I-5 checkpoint," Clookie said.

Camp Pendleton spokesman Lt. Eric Dent said Marine officials are aware of the temptations young Marines face while visiting Tijuana.

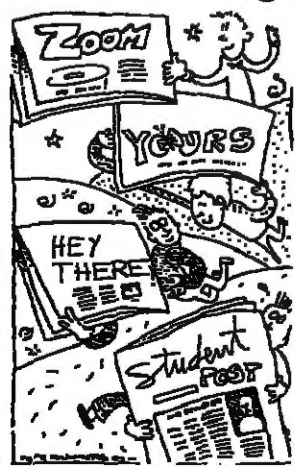
The base uses a Department of Defense counselor to train Marines how to respond when "targeted by drug peddlers, prostitutes and gangs."

"We expect our Marines to understand that if they're in Tijuana and are asked to bring something across the border, they should fall back on our core values," Dent said. "We don't want any part of this. But we realize that our people are human and some mistakes will be made."

(Los Angeles Times)

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סדרה מן הארץ



*in brief*

Republican House leaders have

Gore also scoffed at renewed calls from Republicans for Clinton

Another undecided Republican, Rep. Frank Riggs of California,

Judiciary Committee chairman  
Rep. Henry Hyde, a Republican

The four articles of impeachment include two counts of perjury, one of obstruction of justice, and one of abuse of power in the Monica Lewinsky matter.

But that will be an extremely hard sell to the US Congress, the body that has ultimate authority over Puerto Rico's status and whose



The depressing reality for stateholders is that Rossello's years of crusading – and even the federal government's \$1.5 billion aid package in the wake of September's Hurricane Georges – failed to persuade even half the people to vote for that option.

Statehooders say it's a colonial situation, because Puerto Ricans have no vote for the US president or Congress who can send them to

But such arguments again failed to overcome fears about statehood.

The statehood campaign may have been undone by a strategy that tried to persuade voters there was nothing unusual about a Spanish-speaking US state.

Two of the victims had been summoned in October to a revolutionary court after they tried to revive a banned authors' union.

To date, the security service and other conservative-run bodies have pointed the finger at foreign enemies such as Israel and the US.

"We will wait and see. We are not pinning our hopes on it," Sahaf told reporters after addressing a students' conference. "We want objectivity which acknowledges

UNSCOM, which says it believes Iraq has consistently concealed elements of retained prohibited weapons programs, had stepped up inspections this month to test Baghdad's pledge to cooperate fully with the inspection teams.

Schroeder, who will chair the talks, said he was confident a "sensible solution" would be found.

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## A day to remember

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was right when he said that yesterday will be "remembered in Palestinian history." President Bill Clinton's visit to Gaza is, so far, the pinnacle of Arafat's quest for legitimacy for himself and the Palestinians - overshadowing Arafat's appearance before the United Nations in 1974 and at the White House in 1993. Arafat is no longer the pariah knocking on the doors of the world to be let in, but the host to the leader of the free world in what Clinton called "a city governed by Palestinians."

For this achievement, Arafat has to thank a man he did not mention in his speech: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Though Arafat appropriately credited the late Yitzhak Rabin for making the crucial breakthrough (to the applause of, movingly for Israelis, the assembled Palestinian leadership), it is Netanyahu who is fleshing out the nascent Palestinian state. In an ironic twist on the campaign slogan that helped bring him to power, Clinton's visit to Gaza is the latest proof that Netanyahu is "good for the Palestinians."

In a peace process that is punctuated by moments of hope and tragedy, the gathering in Gaza should be counted as one of the high points, and not just for Palestinians. From an Israeli perspective, it was heartwarming to hear Arafat describe, not just a mutual freedom from violence, but his hopes for cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis in an era of peace. Clinton was also enthusiastically applauded, not only when he spoke of Palestinian aspirations, but when he spoke of two peoples living side-by-side "forever" in the same small land.

Though the meeting did not fulfill the requirements stipulated in the PLO Covenant for its amendment - it was expressly not a meeting of the Palestinian National Council nor was it called for that purpose - it was an important step in the direction of a larger purpose: the irrevocable Palestinian acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

The problem with the peace process to date is that these moments of hope tend not to last for long. Arafat's conciliatory speech upon signing the Wye agreement was followed shortly by a call to Palestinians to ready their "rifles" to achieve their aims. This call for violence was followed, after complaints from the US and Israel, by a recommitment to non-violence, and by another conciliatory speech in Stockholm. Arafat's speech in Stockholm was particularly interesting, because it hinted that the

Palestinians might accept security arrangements demanded by Israel that do not contradict Palestinian sovereignty over land.

The question, therefore, becomes which Arafat to believe - the one that speaks of a "two-state solution" and of peace for Israeli and Palestinian children, or the one who threatens violence and speaks cryptically of the temporary, tactical, peace agreements signed and broken by Mohammed and Salah a-Din. Israeli hawks and doves tend to ignore whichever face of Arafat does not fit their picture of him. For the peace process to succeed, however, Israel and the United States should recognize the reality of both sides of Arafat, and regard them as potential alternatives which he will choose between as circumstances warrant.

The only way, for example, that Arafat will cease employing riots as a pressure tactic - as he has with the recent "prisoners intifada" - is if he is not rewarded for that violence. It is unfortunate, in this context, that Clinton chose to equate the plight of children of imprisoned Palestinian terrorists and that of the children of their Israeli victims. It was also unflattering to the president to drive a wedge between the Israeli government and the Israeli people, when he stressed that the Palestinian vote was a message to the people, not the government. Clinton's impassioned call to the Palestinians to hold to the path of non-violence was welcome and necessary, but it will be directly undermined if the US works to make this latest round of Palestinian violence and incitement bear fruit.

Clinton's moving plea to the audience in Gaza for understanding the other's suffering, for each side to admit there is no "monopoly of virtue," and to create a peace process that is cooperative and not "begudging," should be taken to heart by both Palestinians and Israelis. Unfortunately, however, such pleas are unlikely to change behavior without a demanding approach to fulfilling agreements.

The historic meeting in Gaza was rightly regarded by Netanyahu as fulfilling Israel's requirement for a public Palestinian reaffirmation of the path of peace and coexistence with Israel. But the government is also correct in insisting that the Palestinians abide by their other commitments made at Wye, particularly regarding security cooperation, before handing over more territory. The road forward may be paved partly by conciliatory speeches, but much more so by agreements kept.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NATIONAL UNITY

Sir, - Nero fiddled while Rome burned and Benjamin Netanyahu fiddles while everyone burns with indignation at his sickening performance. Clearly the man has to go. The question is who or what replaces him?

Netanyahu has shown how bad it can get, so the last thing we want is more of the same. Also we can no longer tolerate fanatic fringes

wielding unwarranted power. Their policy for peace will lead us to self-destruct as a pariah state. How ironic it is that Arabs talking peace has reduced us to a nation split and a people adrift, in danger of paralleling our ancient history, hemorrhaging in sieged Jerusalem.

The truth is that so long as Israel has no durable peace we remain in

a near-emergency situation. This surely demands our best brains employed in a national unity government, dedicated to take Israel where the majority want to go, pragmatically back on the moral high ground of the Oslo Accords.

DAVID ROSE

Haifa.

### PRISONER RELEASE

Sir, - Many of the Palestinian political prisoners have been convicted of conspiracy to murder, murder, or for injuring Israelis. I am very wary of releasing such prisoners.

Yet, the same "type" of prisoners were released from British jails

when Israel gained its independence. The assumption was that these were really political prisoners, or prisoners of war.

Perhaps such Palestinian prisoners could be released as parts of the final-status talks, with the recognition that the Palestinian

government would be responsible for the conduct of such people.

BARRY LYNN

Jerusalem.

### IN POLLARD'S PLACE

Sir, - I join with President Clinton in hoping that later this week in Washington, cooler and more responsible heads will prevail over those members of Congress who maliciously seek to extract a pound of flesh from the president.

And I pray that, when President Clinton considers once again the petition for Jonathan Pollard's commutation and weighs the objections of those who vengefully seek, for their own nefarious reasons, Pollard's continued incarceration, the president will take to

heart the famous dictum of the great scholar Rabbi Akiva, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor."

DAVID KIRSHENBAUM

Beit Shemesh.

### PLEASURE TO READ

Sir, - It was a pleasure to read Judy Siegel's article "Shaping the world for the blind" which describes the exciting breakthrough developed by the VirTouch Company - the Virtual System (VTS).

I am a computer professional, blind since birth, who immigrated to Israel in 1974. My associates and I have been following the pioneer-

ing work being done by VirTouch Ltd. to provide the blind and visually impaired with tactile access to computer graphics and regular alphabets in addition to braille.

The worlds of the Internet and Microsoft Windows are increasingly graphic environments. As such, tactile access to the computer is more and more important if we are to keep

pace professionally. We, therefore, await the commercial release of VTS with high expectation. Surely, many more of the blind in Israel and through the world will become computer literate thanks to VTS.

MICHAEL MIKCHIN

Ramat Gan.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 15, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported the Arab non-confidence and boycott of the Special Inquiry Commission investigating the previous October's disturbances.

The number of trees uprooted by Arabs in Hadera District alone was 1,253 in 1933, as compared

to 265 in 1931.

50 years ago: On December 15, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported from London that following a House of Commons debate, the British Government was considering extending de-facto diplomatic recognition of Israel by moving its consulate from Haifa to Tel

Aviv. Neither Belgium nor Holland was prepared to recognize Israel at the present time. France declared that the Security Council's vote on Israel's application for admission to UN should wait for a final decision on the country's recognized boundaries.

Alexander Zvielli

## Darkness or hope?

YOSSI BEILIN

Next Monday, the United Torah Judaism Party will submit its technical vote of no-confidence to the Knesset. There are those who believe that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will manage to "buy" one or two votes and survive that evening. He will skip from Left to Right, halt implementation of the Wye agreements for the Right and make peace for Darawshe, all at the same time.

### Let's agree on early elections and stop debasing our political system

Other people believe that even Netanyahu, who has devoted the last two-and-a-half years to his own survival, appreciates - just as those around him do - that this cannot continue any more and that the moment of truth has finally arrived.

Instead of spending the next few days trying on the one hand to guess the outcome, and on the other to follow the farcical race for the extra vote, serious action must be taken to avoid further abuse of the political system and prevent a collapse of the peace process and a slide into violence.

This is my proposal:  
• Likud and Labor will decide jointly on a date for early elections. The elections will be held in the spring of 1999, so that the Wye agreement can be implemented; a two-month election campaign will then be possible.

• On Monday, UTJ will withdraw its demand for a vote of no-confidence. The vote instead will

be held on the law to disband the Knesset, after the major parties have agreed on a date for new elections.

• During the forthcoming period, the government will be ensured the support of the opposition in the event of no-confidence votes by the Right. This support will be contingent upon reasonable implementation of the Wye Memorandum.

• Amendments to the budget

will be agreed upon so as to allow the government to pass it while the opposition abstains.

• A special effort will be made, perhaps with the help of the Americans, to deal with two problems which are currently troubling the parties.

1) The Palestinians will confirm their willingness to extend the interim agreement after May 4, in return for an Israeli commitment justifying this postponement and a substantial third redeployment of some 10%, rather than the 1% previously mentioned.

2) Israel will express its willingness to release security prisoners and refrain from releasing thieves and rapists.

I believe that this proposal will free us from the Catch-22 situation in which the Israeli political system is now caught.

Further progress can be made if, during the coming weeks, we can rid ourselves of the present debili-

## Dry Bones



tating system of direct prime-ministerial elections and hold parliamentary elections which will prevent a repetition of the spectacle in which a prime minister who does not have a Knesset majority cannot be replaced.

If on the other hand, the haggling in the Knesset continues, both Right and Left - David Levy included - will continue to traipse into the Prime Minister's Office.

the chances of agreement with the Palestinians will become even more remote, the country will find itself without a budget, and political anarchy will reach new heights, from which it will be difficult to back down.

The shortest day of the year may extend the darkness in which the Israeli political system is trapped, but may also mark the beginning of its recovery.

## A threat to democracy

EVELYN GORDON

Last week's landmark High Court of Justice ruling, which declared the current system of army deferments for yeshiva students illegal, has the potential to do good. Outside the haredi community, there is virtual consensus that this system should be changed. If the ruling spurs the Knesset to draft a reasonable compromise, everyone will benefit.

It may therefore seem paradoxical to say the ruling was nevertheless wrong. Yet from a legal perspective, it was untenable - and for a body whose job is to uphold the law, to degrade it into no more than the justices' whim of the moment is ultimately far more damaging than any good the decision might produce. For if the nation's chief interpreters of the law feel no need to respect it, how can ordinary people be expected to do so?

To say that last week's decision was not based on law may sound far-fetched. One of the court's most stunning achievements in recent years has been its success in persuading the public that it is merely interpreting existing law, rather than creating it. A glance at the history of this particular issue, however, shows how spurious that claim is.

The court has discussed yeshiva deferments many times. As far back as 1970, a petitioner complained that the defense minister was abusing his discretion by granting wholesale deferments to yeshiva students. The court at that time said this was a political question and therefore not justiciable (appropriate for judicial decision). In 1981, a similar petition was

filed. Once again the court found the issue non-justiciable. It lacked legal criteria by which the justices could decide, the court wrote, and it was a public issue that should be settled by non-judicial bodies.

In 1986, the court ruled on the issue again. This time, a panel led by current Supreme Court President Aharon Barak decided the issue was justiciable.

whereby it was no longer reasonable to let the defense minister decide - an explicit decision by the Knesset was needed.

It is hard to imagine a flimsier argument than one that says 5.4% and 8% are qualitatively different.

THE ruling becomes even more incredible, however, when one

### If the law is simply what 11 men and women consider "reasonable" at a given moment, why should it command our obedience?

No law had been passed in the interim to provide new legal criteria - but there were new justices, with a different legal philosophy, which held virtually no question inappropriate for the court to decide. Yet even this court dismissed the petition on its merits, saying the deferments were a legal and reasonable use of the defense minister's powers.

And what has changed in the intervening 12 years? Again, no new law has been passed.

The justices themselves said the important difference was numerical. In 1986, there were 17,017 yeshiva deferments - 5.4 percent of that year's eligible draftees. By 1998, there were 28,772 deferments, or 8% of eligible draftees. That quantitative change, Barak wrote, created a qualitative change

considers the fact that the Knesset, far from being silent, has discussed this issue several times. Only this July, the house rejected three bills to limit yeshiva deferments. It is true that the Knesset never explicitly authorized such deferments, but it expressed its opinion amply by rejecting all efforts to change the status quo.

The real change that occurred between 1986 and 1998 had nothing to do with either the number of yeshiva deferments or the law. The difference was simply that in 1986 the court could not have gotten away with such a ruling - but in 1998 it could.

In 1986, the court was still operating in the climate of judicial restraint created during its first four decades of existence. The idea that it could - much less

should - make major policy decisions was foreign to the Israeli public. Not only were political issues considered non-justiciable, but the now ubiquitous "public petitioner" was unknown. Until the mid-1980s, only someone directly harmed by a government decision could petition the court against that decision.

Since then, the law has not changed, but the court has created a new norm: Anyone can petition the court on anything at all, and no issue is beyond its purview.

Over the past 12 years, the court has declared MKs unfit to be ministers or deputy ministers, revoked an Israel Prize, reversed attorney-generals' decisions not to indict, and struck down the closure of a street on Shabbat - all with no backing in explicit written law, but merely on the grounds that these actions were "unreasonable."

Twelve years ago, the court found wholesale draft deferments for yeshiva students reasonable. Last week, it found them unreasonable - though no new law had been passed.

But if the law is no more than what 11 men and women consider "reasonable" at a given moment, why should it command our obedience? And if law is supposed to be made by our elected representatives, why should an unelected justice's ideas of reasonableness have any more power than those, for instance, of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef?

Decisions like the one made last week lay the court open to these kinds of questions. And in the long run, such questions are far more dangerous to Israeli democracy than yeshiva draft deferments.

## Not another inch

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

stage deal so that Israel would not be stifled again. Rather than withdrawing in one chunk - as it did in Hebron, then finding that the Palestinians, land in hand, simply ignored their obligations - Israel would give up 2% first, then wait for Palestinian compliance; then another 5%, with a pause for Palestinian compliance; then a final 6%.

savagely with stones and bricks.

MEANWHILE, Arafat has been going around since the Wye agreement telling his people and everybody else that he will declare independence in May. Very nice, except that Palestinian statehood is, under the Oslo Agreements, something that is not to be done

### Whatever happened to American guarantees of Palestinian reciprocity?

What happened? Israel made the first withdrawal and opened the Gaza airport.

Within hours, rioting, stone-throwing and anti-Israel violence erupted on the West Bank because of discontent with Israeli prisoner releases.

In a blatant violation of the Wye (and Hebron) pledge to "prevent incitement" and prohibit "all forms of incitement," the speaker of the Palestinian legislature declared that "the leadership that threw stones" - before the peace process - "is prepared once again to throw stones in order to free the people and to free the land."

On cue, the very next day, the mob appeared, bused in from Bir Zeit University to Ramallah, and with cries of "Yahudi, Yahudi," attacked an Israeli car, dragged out an Israeli soldier and beat him

unilaterally, but only after negotiations with Israel.

At the same time, Arafat is demanding that Israel go ahead with its 13% withdrawal.

How can Israel possibly be expected to withdraw from land in the name of an Oslo Agreement that Arafat unashamedly says he is going to tear up in five months?

The Israelis now refuse to make further withdrawals, citing the Wye rule that there must be Palestinian reciprocity for each stage of Israeli withdrawal.

Inciting violence and declaring that Oslo dies in five months are pretty obvious violations of both Wye and Oslo.

The Israelis have appealed to the administration to back them up. What has been the administration response?

Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright scolded Israel that it needs to keep to its withdrawal timetable.

Another change of tune here. She is talking about a fixed timetable, whereas Wye was supposed to be not a train schedule but a phased withdrawal with each step depending on Palestinian compliance.

Whatever happened to American guarantees of reciprocity?

Again and again for five years, Arafat stands up in the White House amid pomp and credibility and says, as he did just weeks ago to great applause at the signing of Wye, "We will never go back to violence and confrontation."

Within days, within hours, he finds himself dissatisfied with Israel over this or that - and out comes the mob.

This is not "land for peace." This is land for sound bites.

The president has spent much of his trip to Israel trying to cajole Netanyahu into continuing the "process." But Netanyahu appears determined. He is prepared to incur the wrath of an administration dedicated to peace at any price - Israeli price - and desperate to produce diplomatic shows to prop up the image of its damaged boss.

But Netanyahu is through with the charade. If Arafat can, at will, turn the violence switch on and off, and turn the Oslo process itself on and off (next May: off), it is simply madness for Israel to give another inch.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

سكزا من الارامل



# Blessed be those who rescue families

Ethiopian Jews have revived the tradition of mediation and are using it to try to repair hundreds of troubled relationships in the community. Aryeh Dean Cohen met a team with a sense of mission

To understand what Yosef David is all about, you have to watch his hands.

Speaking to a group, the white-bearded David spreads them wide, turns up his palms, wags a finger or moves his hands emphatically from side to side. At the end of almost every sentence, however, he clasps them together as one — a gesture that mirrors the work David and other domestic mediators do for thousands of Ethiopian immigrants, trying to keep their people together.

Under the auspices of an 11-year-old program founded by the Joint Distribution Committee-Israel called Betachin ("Our House"), teams of Ethiopian mediators called *shmagloch*, Amharic for elders, are working throughout the country. Their task: preserving the delicate fabric of family life worn down by the clash between Ethiopian traditions and the new, often harsh Israeli reality. It is work one member of the community calls "a rescue service."

The program, cosponsored by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry in cooperation with Behalchin — the Tel Aviv-based Ethiopian Jewish Cultural Center — focuses on resolving domestic and interpersonal disputes.

Teams of three or four mediators combine knowledge of the Israeli legal system, rabbinic law and their own tradition to try to offset rising divorce rates in the community, while also resolving other issues of personal status requiring their delicate, sometimes almost magical type of mediation.

They work hand in hand with social workers, rabbinical-court representatives and lawyers; but it is their unique ability to combine their own customs with knowledge of the Israeli system that makes them successful, where other efforts might fail.

It was Yosef David who identified the need for such a service, according to Yechiel Eran, area head for the integration of Ethiopian immigrants at the JDC-Israel. Eran was interviewed last week, just prior to a ceremony in Jerusalem honoring several dozen mediators.

Eran established Betachin in 1987 with the help of community leaders to provide information and advice on family matters to the immigrants.

"Those who worked with the community initially didn't really

understand the complexity of the family relations within the Ethiopian community and needed help in solving problems that arose in this area," he explained.

The affable 67-year-old David, the first person hired to work for Betachin, had come to Israel in 1954 to learn about the country, then returned to work as a teacher in the Gondar community before immigrating here in 1977.

He became troubled by increasing reports of divorce among the new immigrants. The newcomers, it transpired, did not fully comprehend the meaning of divorce here, since in the Ethiopian tradition, couples who divorced could get back together again even a few weeks later, as long as they reached agreement between them to do so.

As a result, many couples were quick to divorce here, assuming they could always get back together soon. The result was a bureaucratic — and sometimes emotional — mess.

Determined to help, David went to Eran with a proposal.

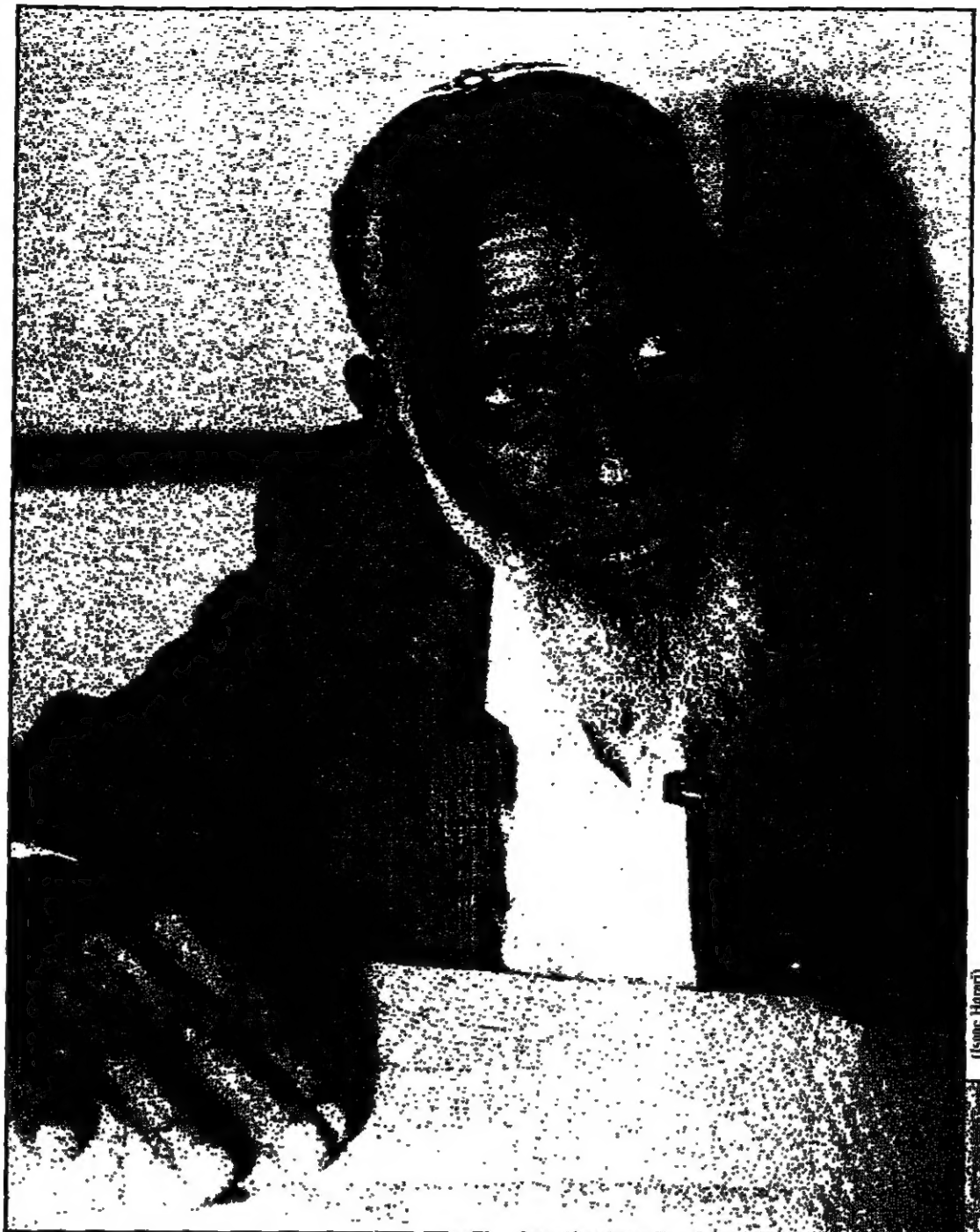
"He told me 'Why not use, in Israel, a traditional framework that was used in Ethiopia, that of mediating domestic disputes?'"

"I didn't really understand how it worked," Eran recalled, "so he told me that in Ethiopia there was a tradition among the Jews of almost never resorting to the country's legal system. Every internal community issue was dealt with by an internal legal and mediation system. Only a matter between a Jew and a non-Jew got taken to the civil courts."

"He explained that there were mediation teams called *shmagloch*, or elders, in the biblical sense of the word: people with wisdom and experience. When there was a dispute, either financial or between a couple — or even when someone wanted to avenge a death — they would come to these mediators."

"Each side would choose a mediator and [a third one] would be neutral, and they'd start a mediation process and generally reach an agreement, which they would then sign. People were chosen to make sure it was implemented; if it wasn't, there were sanctions."

Dr. Shalva Weil, an anthropologist from the National Council of Jewish Women's Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew



University, has studied the Ethiopian community extensively. She described how the mediation process operated in Ethiopia.

"If there was a dispute between husband and wife... there would then be a public mediation. They would bring all his family on one side and all her family on the other side, and they'd turn to the elders, the *shmagloch*."

"Because they're older, they're more respected because they are considered wise people in that society. They're usually the ones who decided [about the divorce] in that public meeting."

"The emphasis was not so much on the individual, but on the family; you could only very rarely have a situation where someone would unilaterally decide that they were getting divorced."

"Everybody is rooted in a family, so the family has something to say about it. It's a much more collective-oriented society. So the Joint tried to replicate this in Israel."



(Top) Yosef David: "Just as Aaron the Priest made peace between people, we do the same in bringing man and wife back together"; Kes Yimannu Tamayat receives a certificate recognizing his work as a mediator from the JDC-Israel's Yechiel Eran.

EXCITED about the idea, the JDC helped David set up his first team of mediators in 1988, and they began their work in Jerusalem.

"We started putting teams together. We said, let's take the elders of the community, in terms of their wisdom, not age," David explained.

"I looked for people who know things, who have life experience, discretion, who know what's good or bad."

Several *kessim* (Ethiopian spiritual leaders) were among those chosen to serve as mediators, along with some people who had filled the role in Ethiopia.

The initial work was largely among the divorced. Problems had arisen resulting from the fact that no document of divorce was granted in Ethiopian village society, making it difficult for the women to remarry here when they wanted to.

David and his fellow mediators — who had been sent by the JDC to study the Israeli civil and rabbinic legal systems — would often appear before the rabbinic courts to explain that a couple had indeed split up, despite the lack of a document attesting to it.

With time, other cases resulting from the difficult move from one culture to the other began to arise.

One was the manner of who controls money in the family, a source of tension that often leads to domestic trouble.

"In Ethiopia the man is the breadwinner," David explained. "Here, what often happens is that the man controls the money. The woman doesn't have any, so she always has to ask for money, which leads to disputes."

"Sometimes the woman goes to the social worker to complain, and demands that the government give her money. But when the social worker looks into the matter, she finds the husband has been getting his allocations. But he says he's in charge of the money — and that leads to trouble."

"What we do is bring in both husband and wife. First we give them advice on how a husband respects his wife, and a wife her husband. Then we explain that the

money is not solely the husband's or solely the wife's, and that the children are their joint responsibility. Then they start to understand how a family's finances work here."

Women's changing roles in Israel are becoming a problem, agrees Weil.

"Women are becoming wage-earners, and in Ethiopian society the husbands are generally in charge of that kind of thing. As women become more independent there are more and more problems between men and women, although things weren't ideal in Ethiopia and there was a high divorce rate there."

SOME customs are more difficult to circumvent, as in the case of young girls arriving here already betrothed by their families in Ethiopia. In Ethiopian tradition, such girls are already considered bound to the man, but when they arrive in Israel they are registered with their own family, not his, and are not allowed to marry until age 18.

In many cases, teenage girls who fall into this category go off to study in a boarding school — to the dismay of their intended, who want to marry right away. Sometimes a girl decides she no longer wants to marry her betrothed, angering him to the point of violence.

In such situations, social workers often call in the mediation teams.

"We can't change the law; they have to wait until 18 to get married," David explained. "But we talk to the girl and then to the boy, hear both sides. Sometimes they decide to stay together, sometimes not."

"When they want to stay together, we ask them to maintain their relationship until she is 18, then give them permission to marry — but only if she wants to."

Multiple wives is also an issue. David remembered the case of a man who had sent his first wife ahead of him to Israel, then brought his second wife with him when he came here.

"They both said he was theirs," said David, laughing and nodding

down the proceedings. Participants get an explanation about the mediation process, and then present their case. Sometimes they are heard separately, but eventually have to face each other.

Agreements are drawn up in Amharic, translated into Hebrew and passed on to the relevant authorities. An average of three meetings is required, and David claims a 70% success rate.

WOMEN are not forbidden to be mediators, but to date only Herut Takala, 52, of Hadera serves in that capacity. Takala, a nurse by profession, was imprisoned in Ethiopia for her efforts to bring Jews here, and is well known and loved in the community.

"They thought it was important for there to also be a woman involved," she explained. "A woman better understands the problems of a woman."

"There are many problems women face at home, since most of them are there all the time. She has problems with the children. Many times the women don't want to talk about their problems in front of a man. Sometimes they're embarrassed. That's why they selected me."

Male mediators frequently call her to consult, Takala says.

Eliahu Yeine, who's been working as a mediator in Nazareth for five years, says that while the mediation is hard work, he doesn't worry.

"I look at the result... What's hard is that there are conflicts because of the differences in lifestyle. It's difficult to watch what were once proud families starting to fall apart."

"I don't mind working night and

often clashes over clothing or behavior."

Yeine says the younger generation is beginning to understand just how important the mediation effort is.

"My 12-year-old son asked me about *shalom bayit*. I told him we were in exile in Ethiopia, and we came back to our home, *betachin*, and now we are repairing homes that might be in danger of falling apart. He said he thinks what we're doing is interesting and important."

Although mediators are paid for their efforts, the biggest reward is their success in preventing disputes, divorce or family break-ups. Yeine recalls being invited to the home of a couple whom he had helped.

"It was as if they were rebuilding their home," he said. "I feel I saved it from falling apart."

Regional mediation teams work in Haifa, Rishon LeZion, Jerusalem and Beersheba, while local ones, with or without the support of Betachin, have been springing up all over.

Betachin members are quick to visit groups of new arrivals to explain the mediation process. In the case of large groups, they suggest setting up a local team to handle disputes, as occurred at Jerusalem's Givat Hamatos caravan site recently, when a large group of Ethiopian immigrants arrived there.

So far, some 330 cases have been handled this year, David says, and in some places there is a waiting list for meetings. Seventy-one couples were reconciled, 43 reached divorce agreements, 70 are still receiving counseling. Eighty individuals received advice, and 37 couples didn't reach agreement — at least under the mediators' auspices. Twenty-seven couples failed to show up for appointments, so their cases are also unresolved.

David says he has been approached by several lawyers, Israeli feminists and others about setting up similar mediation teams in the general population.

AT the ceremony honoring the mediators, Eran thanked the community for giving the Joint the privilege of preserving the mediation custom and adapting it to Israel. He praised the mediators for "saving members of the community pain and suffering, and making it easier for our services, which would have found it difficult to deal with these problems."

Rivka Weissberg of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, praised the mediators for sensing what the community needs, and for their flexibility.

"It's not like someone from outside forcing something on them," she said. "You understand how they live and how one can't just do away with the customs that you have, and which are so important to you."

David, with characteristic humility and wisdom, wanted to say his own thanks to the JDC for "establishing a cornerstone for *shalom bayit*, good relations between man and wife, and between parent and child."

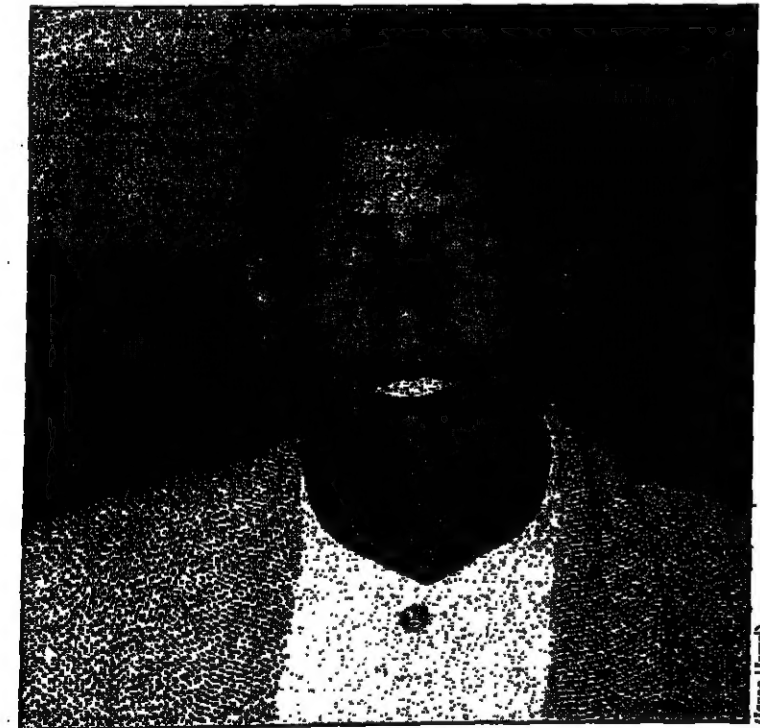
David says that when the mediators enter the final blessing of the mediation process between a couple, thanking God for being given the ability to do their job well, blessing the participants for accepting their advice, and wishing them a long life together, he and his mediators "feel two things."

"One, we are happy that we have succeeded in keeping this couple together. The second is that we thank God that just as Aaron the Priest made peace between people, we have done the same in bringing man and wife back together."

OTHER disputes handled by the mediators include those between parents and children, which are



Baruch Akiva is the mediation team's translator and registrar.



(Top) Eliahu Yeine: "I don't mind working night and day to rescue a family or a marriage"; to date, nurse Herut Takala, 52, (above) is the only woman mediator.



# Hanukka gets hip

What's this? The Israelites' exodus from Egypt has become a Hanukkah story? Rabbi Mark Levine of Silver Spring, Md., treats it that way on Sparks!, an educational Web site he created to provide what is described as "the hippest, hottest, most outrageous collection of stories, articles, games, interviews and activities ever compiled for Jewish kids."

His electronic magazine is one of an increasing number of Internet sites developed in recent months that are devoted to Jewish life and culture. Levine's site is designed for children aged nine to 13, while others try to appeal to singles, young adults with families, or what the Jewish community calls "marginal Jews."

Most Internet offerings seek new ways of presenting traditional teachings and concepts, including the origin and purpose of such holidays as Hanukkah.

Concerning the miracle of the menorah, which burned for eight days during the Temple's reconstruction though it had only one day's supply of oil, Levine, 46,

**'The hippest, hottest, most outrageous collection of stories, games, interviews and activities ever compiled for Jewish kids.'**

**Bill Broadway reports on Sparks!, a Web site created by a Reconstructionist rabbi**

says he believes Jewish children find the story of the oil "no longer fascinating" by the time they are 12 or 13.

So he uses other methods such as contemporary stories and interactive opinion forums to convey the reality and importance of miracles.

"Our site, quite frankly, offers a different perspective to draw kids in more," said Levine, who was ordained in the modern Jewish movement known as Reconstructionism and attends a Conservative synagogue in

Potomac, Md.

"We try to be more flashy and hip than overtly religious. [but with] an underpinning of the goals and values of Judaism."

That includes taking advantage of popular cultural offerings.

Go to the electronic magazine's home page ([www.sparksmag.com](http://www.sparksmag.com)), and you'll find a still shot of the Sphinx from *The Prince of Egypt*, DreamWorks' widely promoted animated film that opens in the US this week.

Click on the picture, and up pops

an orange screen with blue, yellow and green type and Levine's review of this "awesome new flick" about Moses leading his people from servitude under the Egyptian Pharaoh. The review touts a scene that will "hum your dinger" and a song that will "bust your gut."

The film, Levine's review continues, is an "incredible story about freedom, faith, and the miracles of God."

IT'S the miracle part — especially Moses' parting of the Red Sea — that makes the story appropriate for Hanukkah, Levine said.

To enhance the [www.prince-of-egypt.com](http://www.prince-of-egypt.com) experience, Sparks! includes a link to the film's Web site ([www.prince-of-egypt.com](http://www.prince-of-egypt.com)) and direct access to the DreamWorks study guide for Jews — one of seven developed for different religious orientations.

Avoiding what he calls "the mechanics of how to celebrate Hanukkah," Levine also presents the latest episode in the site's ongoing "Hevrah Capers," featuring paintings by Phillip Ratner, an artist whose work appears in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and many Washington-area synagogues.

Hevrah, which means a group of friends, follows the exploits of Molly, a seventh-grader who wears hearing aids and carries a

magic pad she received as a Hanukkah gift.

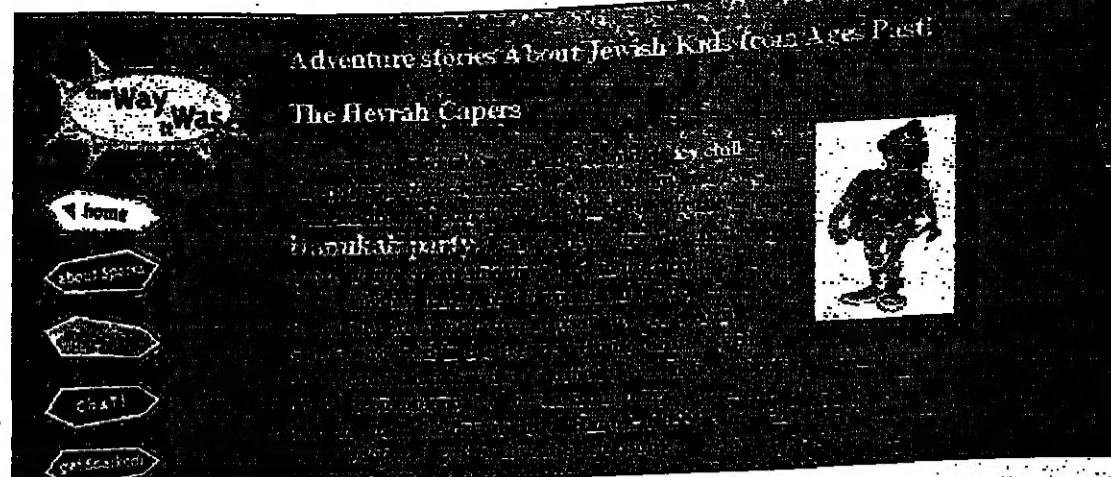
In the Hanukkah installment of the "Hevrah Capers," Molly's magical drawing pad is stolen, and she and her friends are unable to get it back until they learn what Levine calls "the essential lesson of the holiday."

That lesson, he said, is that a small group of dedicated individuals, with God on their side, can overcome a far more powerful force.

One of Molly's buddies, 11-year-old Jesse, figures out the similarities between the miracle of the Exodus and the Maccabee victory over the Greeks.

In both instances, Jesse explains, the righteous few defeat the many "not by might, and not by power, but by [God's] spirit alone."

(The Washington Post)



The Sparks! serial called the 'Hevrah Capers' follows the exploits of Molly, a seventh-grader who wears hearing aids and carries a magic pad she received as a Hanukkah gift.

## A site for every night

The following are selected Web sites with Hanukkah-related items:

**Flash! Hanukkah** ([www.flash-hanukkah.com](http://www.flash-hanukkah.com)): Aish HaTorah is a Jerusalem-based, international outreach program with a new center in Rockville, Md. The Web site offers traditional holiday instruction and music and lyrics to favorite Hanukkah songs, including "Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah" and "Have a Little Dreidel."

**Click on Judaism** ([clickonjudaism.org](http://clickonjudaism.org)): This new Internet page for people in their 20s and 30s was created by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the synagogue arm of the Reform movement. It is designed for Jews who are well-educated and media savvy, but not necessarily engaged with organized Jewish life, says Rabbi Hara Person, said in a statement.

Celebrating Hanukkah may be the place to start for those who are interested in "getting to the heart of Judaism," according to an article, "Why Be Jewish?"

**Interfaith Family** ([www.interfaithfamily.com](http://www.interfaithfamily.com)): Introduced last month, this Internet magazine examines a range of issues for Jews with non-Jewish spouses, including how to celebrate their respective holidays.

**For Hanukkah**, typical Jewish traditions include: Is it OK for children being raised Jewish to visit Santa at the mall or sing Christmas carols? Why is having a Christmas tree an issue? Will celebrating with Christian grandparents undermine their Jewish identity? How can one tell if laws to give out Hanukkah gifts?

**Interfaith Family** is a publication of Jewish Family & Life ([www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com)). The Boston company also publishes Jewish Holidays ([www.jewishholidays.com](http://www.jewishholidays.com)) and Jewish Blessings ([www.jewishblessings.com](http://www.jewishblessings.com)), both of which have sections on Hanukkah.

**Jewish Communication Network** ([www.jcn18.com](http://www.jcn18.com)): This New York-based company is an on-line publishing center that sets up and operates Jewish Web sites for itself and other organizations.

The network is affiliated with the United Synagogue Conservative Judaism, which represents the largest constituency of Jews in the US and Canada's Ministry of Judaism.

Three years ago, it introduced the first "virtual dreidel" on the Internet, and this year it added another — a "virtual Hanukkah dreidel" modeled on the narrative read at the Passover seder.

**Mishpacha** ([www.mishpacha.org](http://www.mishpacha.org)): This site, which officially came on line December 1, calls itself a "virtual community for real Jewish families."

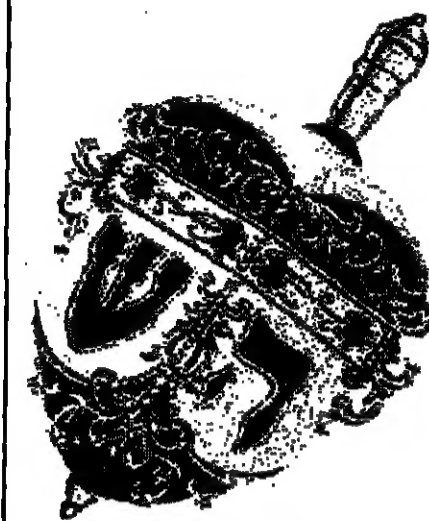
By "real" it means the thousands of Jewish parents who have never affiliated with a synagogue or temple, or somehow lost their way, according to the home page introduction by "virtual community." It is a place where like-minded families without congregational affiliation can meet on-line to encounter each other and their Jewish identities.

The site offers the basics of Hanukkah history and tradition, including specifics of ritual observance and appropriate gifts.

**One Hanukkah** ([www.onehanukkah.com](http://www.onehanukkah.com)): This site, which came on line December 1, is a collection of Hanukkah recipes, prayers, and songs. It also features a "Virtual Hanukkah Dreidel" and a "Virtual Hanukkah Seder." The site was created last year with funding and non-monetary help from the Jewish Community Center of the Washington, D.C. area.

(The Washington Post)

### THE DREIDEL



A children's game, played in the firelight of a cold winter night, the Chanukah Menorah silently glowing in the window... The dreidel. Its four sides spinning around the still point in the turning circle; spinning so fast that its sides blur into nothingness... The dreidel. So seemingly insignificant — and yet this little dreidel contains the story of the Jewish People; the history of the whole world...

Ohr Somayach's extensive Hanukkah site features both humorous and serious topics.



Jewish Communication Network is an on-line publishing center that sets up and operates Jewish Web sites.

## An old lapse has shattered my marriage

**Dear Ruthie,**  
I am a happily married man of 70. Twenty years ago I did something I regretted very much at the time, but had nearly forgotten. I spent the night with my wife's business partner and close friend, an attractive woman who was going through an unpleasant divorce and came to me for legal advice (I am an attorney).

Because of our terrible guilt feelings and mutual love for my wife, we vowed we would never let it happen again — and never utter a word about it.

My problem now is very serious: My wife had a nasty fight with her partner over their joint business, and, while hashing out the financial details of the dissolution of the partnership, the ugly truth came out. I suppose it was her partner's way of taking revenge.

My wife, needless to say, was horrified — though at first she wasn't entirely certain her partner was telling the truth. When she confronted me I knew I could have denied it, but I felt I owed it to her at least to admit my guilt. Now I am not so sure I did the right thing.

As soon as I "came clean," my wife kicked me out of the house. I tried to reason with her; after all, we have been married for 43 years, and this was the only time I have ever slept with another woman. And it only happened once.

I realize that my choice of woman was unfortunate. But I love my wife, and do not want to leave her.

I am in a hotel right now, sick about this whole thing. How can I win back my wife's trust? Heartsick Husband  
Somewhere in the US

**Dear Heartsick,**  
Though it is possible that you will not be able to regain your wife's trust, it is certainly worth a try.

First, however, you must take a long, hard look at your marriage and be as honest with yourself as possible about how "happy" it has been. Then you must put yourself in your wife's shoes to achieve genuine empa-

thy with what she is experiencing right now. Without undergoing some serious introspection, you may find that any attempt to convince your wife of your devotion will fall on deaf ears.

Though your only incident of adultery was a one-night stand, your choice of woman was, as you say, "unfortunate." But was it an accident?

Consider the possibility that something in the partnership between your wife and this woman troubled you. Maybe you resented the place she held in your wife's affections and esteem.

Could it be that your little digression was a way of lashing out at both of them?

Also consider that, though the affair was never repeated, you and your "partner-in-crime" shared a vow, then kept a 20-year secret. Your wife may feel that this alone is reason to kick you out of the house. Coupled with the fact that the whole thing emerged while she and the other woman

were engaged in financial and emotional warfare, it may constitute grounds for never speaking to you again.

Your wife is feeling betrayed from all directions. Her partner and close friend has turned out to be someone who not only is against her now, but slept with her husband 20 years ago and kept it a secret. Her husband of 43 years has turned out to be someone who not only kept a secret from her for 20 years, but shared it with "the enemy." Now that her partnership with this "enemy" is dissolving, she must feel that her partnership with you is dissolving as well.

Keeping all of this in mind, if you really wish to return home you must make it clear to your wife that, unlike her business partner, you are there to stay. Doing this may take time and patience, but if it is what you really want, you should be willing to work at it.

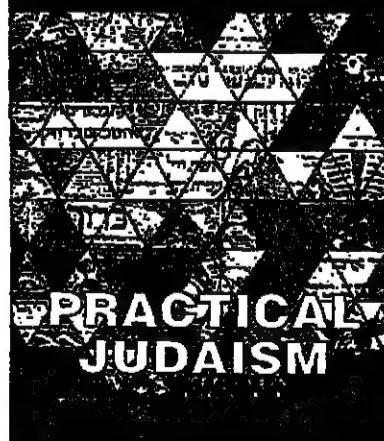
Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: [ruthie@jpost.co.il](mailto:ruthie@jpost.co.il) ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in In Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.)

### Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

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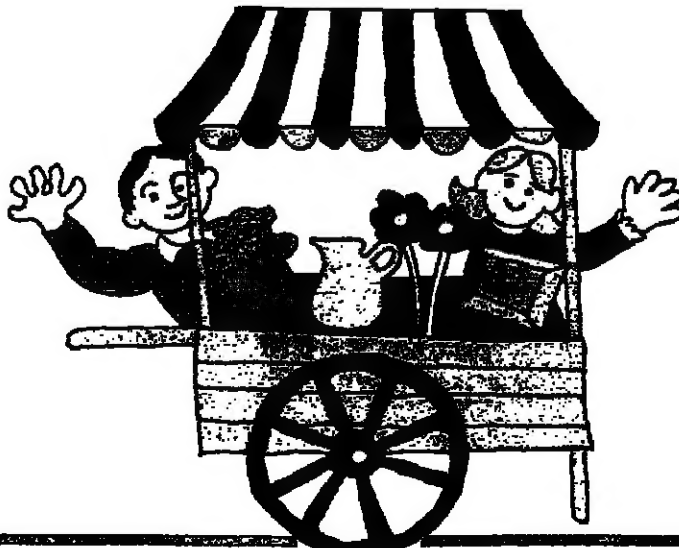
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## PESSAH COUNTRY FAIR\* - Calling All Handicrafters

Over the years The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair\* has brought artists and craftsmen together with our readers and friends for an enjoyable and profitable day out. This coming Pessah, the fair is going to be much bigger and even better. It will take place on Monday, April 5th, at Kibbutz Tzora near Beit Shemesh, convenient to all, midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The extra large area in which the fair will be held, means that we can accommodate many more exhibitors and have more room for the public to move around.



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סוף מן האכל



# Channel 1 searches for Amy

By BARRY DAVIS

In March 1974, 17-year-old Amy Billig left her house in Coconut Grove, Florida, for her father's art gallery less than a kilometer away. She never arrived, and has not been seen since. Channel 1's BBC documentary, *The True Story: Searching for Amy* (tonight at 10:10), follows Sue Billig's obsessive quest to find her daughter.

Everyone involved in the search for Amy seems to be emotionally involved. Frank Rabino, who the narrator says was then "one of Florida's toughest private eyes" — and is now a top attorney — says Amy was a normal, well-adjusted teenager. But, why would a 17-year-old girl with seemingly no serious social or familial problems fall prey to a vicious gang of Florida bikers, appropriately called The Outlaws?

Sue perfunctorily scotches any suspicion that Amy was involved in the local drug scene. The narrator immediately and unenthusiastically puts this statement in its proper perspective by pointing out that parents don't always know as much as they think they do about their teenage offspring. This is graphically illustrated with early 1970s footage of "flower power" teenagers passing joints around and — shock! horror! — couples kissing in public.

Jack Calbar, the senior Miami homicide law officer in charge of Amy's case at the time, concurs that times have indeed changed, and that the teenager of the 1990s is much more streetwise than his or her counterpart of the '60s or '70s.

Rabino, the former private eye, also believes that Amy was an innocent teenager living in a naive, pre-computer, pre-global-village era.

So, what really happened to Amy? Was she abducted? Did she abscond of her own volition? Is she still alive? Our hopes that Sue may eventually find her daughter in good health fluctuate with the evidence. A silhouetted aging ex-biker explains that bikers employ all sorts of nefarious means to keep someone captive.

Suddenly, Sue is given hope of a genuine lead when a biker by the name of Paul Branch contacts her. He agrees to meet her and tells her that Amy had been "his girl" before he passed her on to another biker. Nasty stuff emerges as Branch is subsequently brutally punished by a biker gang for revealing information to Sue. But we still don't know if Branch was telling the truth. There is no hard evidence to speak of.

The search for Amy takes its toll on Sue and husband Ned — both have heart attacks. Sue is subjected to numerous hoax phone calls and, amazingly, is harassed by a telephone stalker for 20 years. He verbally abuses Sue and claims to be having a sexual relationship with Amy. Eventually the stalker is caught and brought to trial but declares he has nothing to do with Amy's case. But is this true?

In a diary entry just prior to her disappearance, Amy talks of running away to South America with a man named Hank. The stalker is a high-ranking customs official called Hank, and he was about to be posted to South America. This evidence is compounded by the discovery of Amy's camera a few days after she disappeared — two of the photos feature a van which was the same type and color as the vehicle used by Hank at the time.

Then, in 1992, new evidence turns up in England when a private eye is offered the sexual services of a woman by a biker named Doughnut. When asked for details about the woman, Doughnut provides the sleuth with accurate information about Amy's past in Florida. As luck would have it, the private eye occasionally worked with a 77-year-old full-time professional counterpart from Florida called Virginia Snyder. Snyder conveys the information to Sue, who sets off for Cornwall.

She seems to be getting closer to Amy as she visits places where bikers have passed through and meets up with the members of a bikers club — none of whom are "criminal types." However, her trip to England is inconclusive and she, regrettably, returns to Florida none the wiser.

Just 10 days after her return home, Sue receives word that Paul Branch has died and she leaves for the Appalachian Mountains to meet Branch's widow Theresa. It is here that Sue finally hears evidence which convinces her of Amy's fate, as Theresa tells her what her late husband revealed to her on his deathbed "when he had nothing to lose."

So, Sue eventually finds "closure" but remains stoically positive. She says that the whole documentary venture "was meant to be," adding that BBC producers Alex McCall and Desmond Wilcox had provided her with "the tools to find my child."



Miami cop Jack Calbar says that teenagers of the 1990s are more streetwise than those of the past.

## Costello the Kiwi

### Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudai

Tantamount to total theater, Tim Balme's one-man show *Jimmy Costello* is far from being a mere monodrama. A racy, rollicking performance brimming

**International TheaterNetto**  
Festival  
Hahinash  
December 2-4

with wry, laconic, self-deprecating humor, acrobatic movement and sizzling anecdote, it raises the genre from solo self-expression to all-encompassing drama.

Director Simon Bennett enriches the mode with a symphony of sound, set, and lighting effects that add a new dimension to TheaterNetto. These subtly complement the intensity and versatility of an extraordinary actor.

The protagonist is Jimmy Costello — convicted car thief, miscreant hero, symbolic underdog adored by New Zealand society for his multiple and audacious escapes from prison and police.

Tim Balme's elastic face and rubbery physique depict him with panache. His portrayal of the amazing exploits of this impudent free spirit are done with verve as well as compassion. His is the canonization of a resourceful and rebellious individual shackled and frustrated by the boredom and stagnation of his sheep-rearing milieu.

In the course of less than two hours, Balme populates his stage with a world of vibrant local characters, unfolding a view of the lower strata of New Zealand society with deep sensitivity and sympathy.

LIKE Benigni's recent film *La Vita Bella*, *The Thousandth Night* by Carol Wolf is a wryly wrought comedy imposed on a grim Holocaust background. Guy de Bonheur is a French actor caught on the way to Buchenwald in a railway station crawling with gendarmes.

Emulating Sheherazade and the Arabian Nights, in order to save his life he engages their attention with a non-stop performance of "a thousand" exotic tales.

In an elegant and deeply moving performance Ron Campbell combines his artistry as a highly gifted mime with outstanding histrionic and puppetry skills (the scene with a couple of hand-puppets is superb). Directed by Jessica Kubzansky it lends deep sensitivity to a demanding subject.

Projecting the multiple voices and body movements of a series of personae, not least among whom are a troupe of dying donkeys and proudly prancing horses, he brings to life a world of sultans and their courts with grace and charm. But in the background the threat of impending doom is never absent. The angst behind the storyteller's mask is slowly seen to emerge — though never with excessive pain or pathos. The drama develops with the increasing threat of the Gestapo subtly concealed behind the ever-smiling facade of the dissembling hero. The piece stands out as a different but no less deeply felt approach to the Holocaust.

**SHAKESPEARE'S Villains**—written, directed and performed by Steven Berkoff could be entitled *Shakespeare Sanitized* and Satirized by a veteran Stand-Up Comedian. Berkoff, hitherto a highly respected member of the serious theater fraternity, here blazons his versatility with a self-indulgent bash at the Bard that is an exercise in psycho-moral sanctimony.

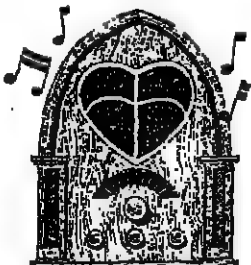
To the accompaniment of an interminable blaze of wit and wisecracks he undoubtedly scores at the level of music-hall entertainer. His descent into the lowest of low comedy sends the audience into unstoppable gales of laughter and testifies to his overwhelming success in this new role.

To sustain a compulsive, highly personal patter for almost two hours with engaging eloquence is a feat in itself. But to cheapen his craft with facetious parodies of Iago, Lady Macbeth or Hamlet — in his own eccentric interpretations of Shakespeare — marks a surrender to his private demons and hatreds.

For Berkoff emerges here as a hater of mankind and maybe a self-hater too. His Jew-hating Stirner portrait of Shylock as a cringing East End Yid complete with Whitechapel accent would seem to illustrate that.

## Heartbreak never sounded so good

### In Tune



By David Brinn

The contrast was striking to anyone who paid attention to this year's Academy Awards, broadcast during the performances for Best Song.

**XO**  
Elliott Smith  
(Red Arz)  
**WHO CARES A LOT?**  
Faith No More  
(Helicon)  
**THE BEST OF M PEOPLE**  
M People  
(Hed Arzi)

Amid the lavish, long-gowned orchestrated production numbers by the likes of Celine Dion, one scruffy folksinger named Elliott Smith walked out with nothing but his acoustic guitar and uncombed hair.

Smith emerged from years of obscurity to pen and perform several striking songs on the soundtrack to *Good Will Hunting*, including the Oscar-nominated "Miss Misery."

On his official debut, *XO*, he delivers all the promise of his moment in the Hollywood glitter and more.

Sounding like he internalized every song that the mid-'60s versions of the Beatles and the Beach Boys recorded, with a little Todd Rundgren thrown in for extra seasoning, Smith builds on those touchstones to create something totally unexpected and striking.

His lilting vocals and bouncing, comfortable melodies are propelled forward by adventurous pop arrangements including well-placed horns, strings and

harmonies, as well as brash touches that give away his indie-rock affinity.

But the real treat is in the juxtaposition of that uplifting, intricate music against dark lyrics about love lost, failure and lack of direction.

Smith brings you right down in the dumps with him and then pulls you out with that sunny tunelessness.

Idiosyncratic and intimate, *XO* is a major statement by a new major talent. Heartbreak never sounded so good.

FROM a palette of rock, rap and funk, Faith No More has painted with a broad stroke across the alternative scene for the last decade.

Featuring outrageous stage antics and often dumbering down to its audience, the San Francisco-based band, which broke up this year, boasted a huge cult following, including one here, based on an appearance a couple of years ago.

Combining Beastie Boys irreverence, Ramones street smarts, and a grudging nod to '70s progressive rock dinosaurs like Slyx, Faith No More followed no rules. As a result, their records were wildly erratic. Luckily *Who Cares A Lot*, a posthumous 15-song collection, captures the band at its raucous best.

The genre bending can be vexing, but the band members, especially lyricist and vocalist Mike Patton, possess real talent which seeps through amid even the more sophomoric material.

No matter how they were labeled, Faith No More will be missed, if only for their rock 'n' roll attitude. Instead of writing and playing with one ear to the charts, they did it for the laughs and the free beer.

POSSESSING one of pop's most distinctive voices, Heather Small and M People have quietly nailed a string of top-ten hits over their eight-year career.

Smooth, soul-based pop that never offers more than it can produce, M People is your basic run-of-the-mill Britpop.

But besides Small's deep, crackling baritone which recalls



Elliott Smith's 'XO' is a major statement by an exciting new talent.

a giddy Joan Armatrading, the band is faceless, with most songs indistinguishable. If disco-ized versions of "Lichycoo Park" and The Doobie Brothers' "What A Fool Believes" is your idea of a good time, then The Best of M People can deliver the goods. Otherwise the best of this group can be melted down into a couple of tracks.



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## The gaiety of Spanish baroque



Concert Roundup

Hardly known gems from the Spanish baroque were presented by Spain's Al Ayre Espanol ensemble, conducted by Eduardo Lopez Banzo, in the

Authentica series. What contributes a unique, lighthearted Spanish flavour to this music is the castanets, even in some sacred-music works — though not in all of them.

**Al Ayre Espanol**  
Authentica series  
Spanish baroque vocal  
and instrumental works  
Jerusalem Theater  
December 5

Another quality that sets the Spanish baroque music apart from the rest of Europe is its vivaciousness, occasional humor, even in *Pasacalles* and church cantatas. It is also characterized by an almost entire lack of Central European solemnity and pomposity — except for Jose de Torres' appropriately mournful *Villancico de Misericordia*.

This almost all-pervading gaiety is not altogether surprising, since much of the music is derived from villancicos — lively and exuberant folk dances. And although it is in a highly stylized guise, it nevertheless does not dilute their original liveliness. The use of period instruments adds a touch of intimacy, not at the expense of the music's captivating sprightliness.

It was in this spirit that the Spaniards rendered their delightful program faithful to style, good-humoredly, and perfectly polished.

Ury Eppstein

**The Israel Camerata**  
"New Beginnings"  
Concert-lecture  
Jerusalem Theater  
December 6

The Israel Camerata's new, retrospective concert-lecture series of 20th-century music was launched under the heading "New Beginnings" by Tomer Lev, lecturer, pianist, and series editor.

To highlight the revolutionary change of direction — from the former, classic-romantic, common denominators of tonality and emotional expression to diverse novel techniques, substituting universal human emotions by individualist tendencies — five piano pieces and two orchestral works were selected. Debussy represented the break from emotionalism to decorativeness in his *Reflets dans l'eau*. The piano as a percussive, and no longer melodic, harmonic instrument was featured in Prokofiev's *Suggestion*.

Under Von Dohnany's fiery and assured baton, the IPO performed with zest and élan and presented Bartok's *Divertimento for String Orchestra* in a scorching fashion, providing some of the best playing the IPO strings have generated in recent history.

Von Dohnany does not interpret the music, he plays it with the orchestra, he breathes fire and excitement into it. His hands are very clear; he does not opt for external gestures on the podium, only the most essential and that is more than enough.

In this all-orchestral program, the IPO shone in Brahms's Second Symphony which was one of the most perfect and powerful renditions of the symphony the orchestra has played in a long time. The gavotte in Prokofiev's First Symphony was breathtaking.

All told, the German maestro gave the audience a refined musical evening in which the IPO played with power, presence and conviction.

**Diabolique.** The divorce from tonality in favour of an egalitarian atonality was demonstrated by Schoenberg's Suite op. 25. Piano duos, with Naomi Lev, heralded an enlargement of the tonal palette, with a diminishing of intervals from half-tones to quarter-tones in Charles Ives's *Quarter-Tone Pieces*, and music as a vehicle for irony and wit, in Eric Satie's *Morceaux en forme de poire*.

On the orchestral level, under Avner Biron's direction, the pouring of new, rhythmical elements into old, classical forms could be experienced in Stravinsky's *Concerto for Orchestra* in D.

A 20th-century masterpiece, Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*, was the evening's crowning glory.

Virtuoso popularizer Lev's well-chosen formulations and carefully structured comments contributed much to open the audience's minds and ears to this still largely unfamiliar music. A more rigorous streamlining of the lecture, and keeping it within a reasonable timing in proportion with the event's length, might keep the listeners' attention more alert in the series' subsequent concerts.

Ury Eppstein

IPO Plays

Bartok,

Prokofiev

and Brahms

Masa Auditorium, Tel Aviv

December 2

Christoph von Dohnany brought an almost forgotten central European aesthetic to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert that reminded one and all that pure music-making with no gimmicks is still probably the best way to perform classical music.

Under Von Dohnany's fiery and assured baton, the IPO performed with zest and élan and presented Bartok's *Divertimento for String Orchestra* in a scorching fashion, providing some of the best playing the IPO strings have generated in recent history.

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Michael Aizenstadt

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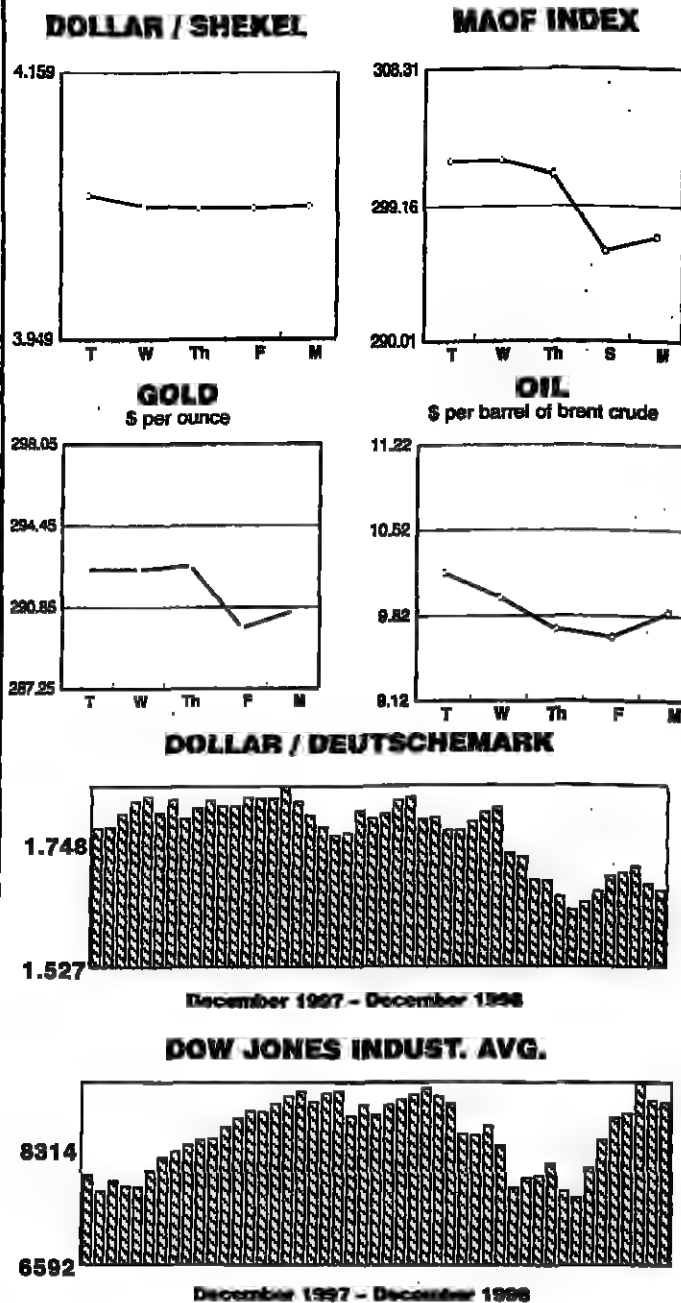
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## MARKETS

in brief



### Trade deficit with EU shrinks \$1.1b.

The trade deficit with the European Union shrank \$1.1 billion during the first 11 months of the year to \$6.62b., down 20 percent on the equivalent figure between January and November 1997, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. The overall trade deficit in November totalled \$412 million, with imports costing \$2.27b. and exports bringing in \$1.86b.

Since the start of the year the deficit has been \$5.3b., compared to \$7b. by the same point last year. The decline of the deficit is the result of both increased exports to \$19.3b. and fewer imports (\$24.6b.) during the first 11 months.

David Ziv Harris

### Matav invests \$11m. in digital network

Matav-Cable Systems Media yesterday announced that it will purchase an advanced digital network from London-based NDS and digital converters from Samsung Electro Mechanics Co. of Korea for some \$11 million.

The cable television supplier said the new system will enable it to provide its subscribers with hundreds of broadcast channels and additional services.

The recent move is part of the preparations of cable companies for rising competition in the field of multi-channel television broadcasting.

Earlier this month, three groups applied for licenses to offer digital broadcast satellite services. DBS services could be offered to the public as soon as next year.

Dan Gerstenfeld

## New \$74m. option to boost C&W stake in Bezeq to 20%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

UK-based Cable & Wireless yesterday said it has received an option from US investment house Merrill Lynch & Co. to acquire an additional three percent of Bezeq Israel Telecom for \$74.1 million plus interest.

Under the terms of the agreement the British telecom company will buy the stake for \$3.28 per share, which is some 9% higher than Bezeq's closing price on the

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday after the share rose 3%.

In July, C&W completed a similar deal to purchase a 4.15% stake in the state-controlled telecom monopoly from HSBC Investment Bank, for some \$102m., or \$3.3 per share. HSBC has also purchased the shares from Merrill Lynch.

Earlier this year, Communications Minister Limor Livnat authorized C&W to increase its stake in Bezeq from 10.2% to

13%. It then purchased a 2.5% stake from Merrill Lynch for \$63m., reflecting a price of \$3.3 per share.

At that time, Livnat also gave C&W permission to increase its holdings to 20% after August 1999. It is therefore believed that C&W will exercise the option next year after it receives the government's approval.

Exercising both options will allow C&W to control close to 20% of Bezeq, Merrill Lynch, the world's

largest equities underwriter, purchased its shares of Bezeq a year-and-a-half ago as part of a deal in which it acquired a 12.5% stake in Bezeq from the government for \$250m. Merrill Lynch paid an average price of about \$2.6 per share.

When Merrill Lynch sold its holdings in Bezeq to HSBC it transferred \$5m. to the government, according to the agreement signed with the Government Companies Authority, and it is

also expected to transfer part of its profit to the Treasury now.

The government still holds 58.4% of the phone monopoly, with the remaining, non-C&W shares, traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The British telecommunications giant started expressing interest in Bezeq in 1995, when it purchased a 10.02% stake by buying stocks on the open market in a move which caught the Rabin government by surprise.

## Egypt gas to save us \$150m. annually - expert

By DAVID ZIV HARRIS

Israel would save at least \$150 million a year should it purchase natural gas from Egypt, industry expert Amit Mor said yesterday.

One of the country's leading authorities on energy and the environment, Mor said some \$100m. would be saved directly. The remainder would be the result of reduced social and environmental costs, which are currently associated with heavy fuel oil-fired power stations, and amount to \$50m. "at the very least."

The National Infrastructure Ministry is currently working to secure the country's energy supplies well into the next century.

Speaking at a conference organized by the Environment Ministry, Mor said the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from any one of a number of potential suppliers - including Nigeria, Algeria, Qatar and Norway - would be prohibitively expensive. The only cost-effective way to move to a more efficient, environmentally-friendly energy supply is to transport natural gas via pipeline from Egypt.

"The cost of transporting LNG means it will not find a sufficient market to replace oil," said Mor.

Liquefying gas allows it to be highly condensed and therefore far easier to transport. However, the initial costs of establishing liquefaction and the subsequent regasification plants is some \$3 billion.

Mor said the construction costs associated with a 230-kilometer pipeline from Port Said to Ashdod would be closer to \$200m.

Not only is natural gas a cheaper proposition it is far more environmentally friendly than oil and coal, he added. Natural gas is virtually sulphur-free, while the Israel Electric Corporation has to go to tremendous lengths to reduce the sulphur emissions from its coal-fired power plants.

## Former Bezeq CEO may be indicted for price-fixing

By DAN GERSTENFELD and Globes

The Antitrust Authority is expected to indict a former Bezeq CEO for being involved in an alleged cartel between Tadiran and Telrad Telecommunication & Electronic Industries, according to sources close to the investigation.

Authority Director-General David Tadmor announced he has recommended indictments against senior managers in Bezeq Israel Telecom, Tadiran, Telrad, and Koor Industries.

Former managers at these companies are being accused of fixing the prices of switchboards supplied to Bezeq. The results of the investigation - which started a year ago following a report in the financial daily *Globes* - led the Antitrust Authority to decide to indict some of those involved.

Tadmor added that the "findings paint a grim picture concerning the way in which Bezeq has acquired switchboards from Koor and the way the market was managed until recently."

In addition, the Industry and Trade investigators alleged that Koor supplied the authority with false information concerning the competition between its two subsidiaries Tadiran and Telrad. The report suggests that Tadiran and Telrad had colluded over pricing of equipment in the years 1993-1996. It added that in several cases Bezeq was aware of it.

In addition, "the findings of the investigation prima facie suggest that Bezeq purchased switchboards

from one supplier (Koor) at prices which were allegedly much higher than those they would have had to pay had they not been bound to them. ... blocking the market for other suppliers," Tadmor said. He added that Bezeq continued doing so even after it received legal advice that it is illegal.

The report concludes that the fact that the price-fixing was concealed not only proves that those involved knew it was a crime, but it also shows the severity of this crime.

## Mattel to buy Learning for \$3.8b.

By AMIEE SULLIVAN and WES CONARD

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (Bloomberg) - Mattel, the world's largest toymaker, agreed to buy top educational software maker Learning Co. for \$3.8 billion in stock and warrant profit for the fourth quarter and year will miss forecasts.

Mattel - whose toys include Barbie, Hot Wheels and Fisher-Price - will pay \$33 a share of its stock for Learning Co., the maker of such popular titles as "Myst" and "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?"

Mattel wants to boost its presence in the software market as more children opt for video and computer games over traditional toys. Rival Hasbro Inc. bought MicroProse Inc. in September and Tiger Electronics Inc., the electronic toymaker that gave it the best-selling Furby, in April.

"The world has changed very fast and toymakers haven't kept up," said Christopher Byrne, editor of *Playthings* Marketwatch newsletter. "Why smack two action figures together when you can go into virtual reality and blow them up?"

Mattel, which closed Friday at 30 1/8, was indicated to trade at 24 to 26. The price represents a 17 percent premium to Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Learning Co.'s price Friday of 28 5/16.

El Segundo, California-based Mattel said a decline in orders from retailers, which are reducing their inventories, will pull down its earnings for the year to \$1.20 a share. It was expected to earn \$1.78, the average estimate of analysts polled by First Call Corp., up from \$1.65 a year earlier.

For the fourth quarter, Mattel was expected to earn 79 cents a share, compared with 64 cents a year ago. It's the fourth quarter in a row Mattel warned profit will miss estimates, largely because of inventory cutbacks by its largest customer, Toys "R" Us Inc., the nation's biggest toy retailer.

Mattel's push into software and computer games mirrors the strategy of Hasbro, Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based Hasbro in the last year has acquired the Atari Video Game division of JTS Corp. and agreed to buy the games unit of Monarch Services Inc.

"The combination of these two companies positions Mattel for leadership in a changing marketplace," chairman and chief executive Jill Barad said in a statement. Learning Co. has projected 1998 revenue of about \$850 million. The agreement is expected to add to Mattel's earnings in 1999.

Learning Co. chairman and chief executive Michael Perik and President Kevin O'Leary will both join the Mattel management team upon completion of the transaction.

## London seeking Wall St.-bound Israelis

By joining London's financial markets Israeli companies will gain access to a vast pool of capital coming from financial investors around the world, Theresa Wallis, chief operating officer of the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) told business leaders yesterday.

Wallis, who was speaking at a seminar on the City of London financial services in Tel Aviv, told the assembled audience of some 150 guests that London's two markets - the London Stock Exchange and AIM - offer Israeli companies an entrance to the "largest pool of international capital in the world."

"London plays a leading role in international listings," she said. "We have more international listings than any other stock exchange in the world, including NASDAQ."

Some 325 non-UK companies, many of them from the high-tech arena, are listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Wallis came here as a part of a mission led by Lord Levene, the lord mayor of the City of London, to raise the profile of London's markets in Israel.

"London as a financial center is the most active and liquid trading mar-

ket in international equities in the world," said Wallis. "It is responsible for the highest level of equity trading, six times more than NASDAQ."

A public listing in London will attract coverage by more international investment analysts and will "enhance a company's reputation and standing among clients and investors," she told guests.

Wallis, who said the trend towards raising capital outside one's own market is on the rise, said that London's well-regulated exchange acts as a complement to

### BEEN HERE

By NICKY BLACKBURN

companies that are listed on home exchanges.

"The feedback from companies listed on our markets shows that the additional interest led in turn to increased trading on the domestic market."

London's alternative exchange,

AIM, which is designed for emerging companies, was launched in June 1995. So far six Israeli companies, including Geo Interactive, have been listed on it, making Israel the country with the second largest representation after Ireland.

This year data communications company BATM Advanced Technologies, based in Rosh Ha'ayin, was the winner of the AIM award for best technology.

The company first joined AIM in July 1996. It raised capital of \$8 million and two years later raised

another \$16m. In the process, share prices rose 38.4 percent.

"This issue has been a real credit to AIM," said Wallis.

Wallis said that AIM is looking for companies with strong management, the right system, and a clear strategy of growth.

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by Aviva Bar-Am & Yisrael Shalem

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## Steel-plated bear hug

By TODD R. BARTMAN

WASHINGTON — Talks between US and Russian officials over a possible cap on Russian steel exports to the US would serve little purpose without participation by the US industry, labor unions, and other steel exporting nations, according to United Steelworkers of America President George Becker.

"I would be extremely concerned if the government was entering into talks without representation of the steel industry or representatives of labor present," Becker said.

Becker was responding to a Washington Post report that Robert La Russa, US assistant secretary of Commerce for import administration, will go to London next week to discuss a Russian proposal to limit steel exports to the US in exchange for dropping an anti-dumping case brought by American steel producers.

White House spokesman Barry Toiv confirmed that Commerce Department officials will meet with their Russian counterparts next week. He said he couldn't speak to the agenda and didn't know where the meeting would take place.

Big US steelmakers have joined the steelworkers union in a campaign against cheap steel from countries in economic trouble, including Russia, Japan, and Brazil. The cheap exports threaten tens of thousands of jobs, the profits of major steel companies and the survival of some small

after the US International Trade Commission determined that the cheap imports posed a risk of material damage to US steelmakers. That means Commerce will consider potentially huge punitive anti-dumping tariffs.

Piskoppel said this week the talks were effectively frozen, and he'd received no response to a letter to Commerce asking for a timetable for resumed talks.

Charles Boesel, a spokesman for Sen. Mike DeWine, an Ohio Republican and member of the Senate Steel Caucus, said La Russa met yesterday with caucus members to discuss plans for talks with the Russians, among other matters. Boesel could not confirm that La Russa planned to meet Russian officials next week.

Boesel said caucus members are concerned the administration might take too soft a stance with trading partners trying to export their way out of economic malaise.

The steelworkers' Becker didn't rule out a deal with foreign steel producers, which administration officials have said is an option, though he said any talks need to involve all parties and include a range of remedies to protect the embattled industry.

"Whatever is ultimately worked out... it has to include some kind of a quota that would roll these imports back to pre-crisis levels," said Becker. "It would have to be a comprehensive agreement that would involve all aspects of the steel trade. There would have to be a moratorium on imports for long enough to allow complete recovery

BYE, BYE USSR



After Communism

## Can Washington and Moscow impose their will on an unruly steel market?

producers, they contend.

The administration of President Bill Clinton has raised the specter of "voluntary restraints" to deal with the more than 50 percent rise in steel imports. That's a legal term used to distinguish negotiated import caps from import quotas, which usually violate World Trade Organization rules.

The administration plans to announce a comprehensive plan of action on the steel import surge on Jan. 5.

USX-US Steel Group President Paul Wilhelm said in a statement that the latest US steelmaker is "fundamentally opposed to a negotiated settlement" of the dispute.

Becker said US steel companies "feel they're on extremely solid ground on the anti-dumping suit" filed at the end of September with the Commerce Department. "If there are discussions that would go on between the government and the Russians, I would view this with some alarm."

The industry anti-dumping suit charges Japanese, Russian, and Brazilian steel exporters with selling hot-rolled carbon steel — used in cars and home appliances — below the cost of production to offset lost sales in Asia and other troubled emerging markets.

A Russian delegation led by deputy foreign trade minister Roald Piskoppel broke off talks with US officials last month

ery of the US industry, which has already lost about 2,000 jobs, he said.

Companies that benefit from cheap imported steel started their own campaign this week to counter that effort. Caterpillar Inc., Enron Corp. and other US steel users called on Clinton to resist pressure to severely restrict steel imports, saying that could deny them adequate supplies.

Choking off too many steel imports "could seriously injure our steel-using industries, and the economy as a whole, through unnecessarily high prices, loss of competitiveness, fewer choices and job migration offshore," the companies wrote in a letter.

The administration has greater flexibility in dealings with Russia than with Japan or Brazil because Russia isn't a member of the World Trade Organization, which prohibits quota arrangements in most circumstances. Russia also has wiggle room because its steelmakers have already cut back on exports to the US in the face of possible retroactive tariffs should Commerce agree the Russians are dumping steel in the US.

Russia's Piskoppel said yesterday in Moscow that Russian exports of hot-rolled steel in the US "almost dried up in November" in response to that threat. He provided no figures to back up that claim.

(Bloomberg)

## Nat'l Grid to buy New England Electric for \$4.6b.

LONDON — National Grid Plc will buy New England Electric System for \$4.6 billion in cash and assumed debt, the second purchase of a US utility by a UK-based power company in a week.

National Grid, which operates the electric transmission system in Great Britain, will buy each New England share for \$53.75, a 25 percent premium to the closing price of New England shares on Friday. The Coventry-based company will pay \$3.2b in cash and assume New England debts of \$1.4b., said National Grid Chief Executive David Jones in an interview.

The purchase follows Scottish Power Plc's announcement last week that it will buy Portland, Oregon-based PacifiCorp for \$1.1b., as overseas companies seek to enter a US market made more accessible through deregulation.

National Grid, which in August said it had found a US takeover candidate, is seeking to generate 30% of its profits from outside the UK within three years, analysts said. "People have talked about National Grid buying everything under the sun," said Edward

Tirello, an analyst with BT Alex Brown Inc., who has a "hold" rating on New England Electric System before the announcement.

The acquisition likely will face tough scrutiny from regulators as they lay the groundwork for foreign companies wanting to gain access to the US electricity market. Investors already are expressing concerns that the ScottishPower's acquisition could take twice as long as the company expects.

"This is going to be another hard deal," said Tirello.

In the US, utility mergers need to be approved by both state and federal regulators in a process that sometimes can take as long as two years to complete. Regulators can also insist on rate cuts or take other actions that can make mergers unprofitable.

"We don't see any insurmountable hurdles," said CEO Jones.

He said the company had "undertaken the groundwork with the relevant bodies" and didn't see the regulatory process going on for any "significant length of time."

(Bloomberg)

# Lucky strike or a lot of hype?

One week before a planned second offering of Givot Olam Oil Exploration, the company 'miraculously' announced that it had extracted here commercially viable oil and gas

## MARKET WATCH

By DAN CROSTON

Armed with a blessing from the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, a small oil exploration company captured local headlines last week by announcing it had extracted oil and gas.

The Israeli dream of integrating into the Middle East by striking oil may or may not be near realization, but the early Hanukkah miracle clearly indicates that local stock speculators are still alive and kicking.

Despite the fact that all previous oil tests carried out in other parts of the country showed that there was no economic justification for mining oil here, and although oil prices have dropped recently to a 25-year low, investors rushed to buy shares of Givot Olam Oil Exploration Limited Partnership, ignoring the basic rule about high yields being coupled with high risk.

The pictures of gas flames shooting out of the Meged 2 well led to a 182 percent jump in the price of Givot Olam shares over the week, fueling other oil-related securities traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The oil exploration sector, which was neglected by investors for some years, showed some signs of life for the first time since Isramco, another promising oil exploration partnership, halted in '94 a much-heralded exploration off of Tel Aviv's shores.

Veteran traders said the enthusiastic response to Givot Olam's announcement was reminiscent of the oil hysteria sparked by Isramco, which challenged the imagination of many local investors, all of whom were ultimately left disillusioned, and sometimes also penniless.

Many short-term Isramco investors were rumored to have hailed from the humble town of Dimona, proving — yet again — that the less sophisticated an investor the more likely he is to fall for the hollow rags-to-riches promises of obscure companies.

To be fair, Givot Olam's management seems much more solid



than that of Isramco, which was led by Chairman Joseph Elmaleh, who was described by Bloomberg Business News as a "gambler dabbler and the ultimate underdog."

Nevertheless, investing in oil exploration remains risky even if the company in question, like Givot Olam, is led by observant Jews who base their findings on the Bible, among other sources.

Givot Olam's surge began last Sunday as it notified the media about an important announcement to be made immediately.

Cynical observers may say that the fact that the shares started rising on the first day of the week is also the result of a less publicized campaign conducted in several synagogues in Jerusalem on the preceding Shabbat.

Those who attended shul, and followed the rule of "buy on

rumors, sell on news" clearly benefitted. In fact, lucky investors who bet on the company, which announced in the past that it had discovered a reservoir containing one billion barrels of commercial oil, more than doubled their money in less than a week.

Although the company's announcement stated that only 15 barrels of clear oil were recovered, much of the media preferred to ignore some 400 previously failed drills while creating the impression that Israel may soon become a second Saudi Arabia.

The company added to the prevailing optimism by announcing that the test proved, for the first time, that Israel, like Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern oil producing countries, is sitting on the Paleozoic oil basin. It added that analysis of the oil and

gas extractions found in Rosh Ha'ayin confirms that both contain hydrocarbons and are thus commercially viable.

The most dubious aspect of the statement was its timing, a mere one week before the planned secondary offering of Givot Olam, in which the company intends to raise some NIS 16.8 million in capital to drill an additional well, Meged 3.

In its defense, the company said that it had to conduct the test now because Yehezkel Druckman, the oil commissioner at the National Infrastructures Ministry, imposed a requirement to carry out the Meged 3 drilling by the end of December. Since it could not finance such drilling, the commissioner agreed to convert the requirement so that the Meged 2 well could be tested in order to prove the existence of oil or gas,

on the condition that it would be done before the end of the year.

Givot Olam also said that it took the risk of retesting the Meged 2 well, despite the fact that if the findings did not confirm its expectations, the company would be left without a geological basis to continue drilling — and broke.

Whether or not a coincidence, the run of events should worry investors.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1990 blessed the company with "good news in the near future."

But Givot Olam itself assumed no risk, preferring not to put its trust exclusively in God. In fact, in its prospectus it made sure to include this warning: "An investment in the offered equity is linked to a real risk of losing the whole investment in a relatively short period."

# Security in your back pocket

First Access has developed a card that can safeguard your computer files and cut down on time-consuming logging in and logging off — yet never needs to be removed from your wallet

While Moshe Elgressy, now 27, was working for a computer company two years ago, he discovered a problem. Returning to his desk from lunch, he realized that someone had rifled through his work station, looking at employee files. Being something of a computer whiz kid — he worked as a consultant for NASA in Europe when he was just 14 — he decided that the only way to deal with such break-ins was to invent a solution.

Two years on, his company, First Access, has developed a contactless authentication card that opens your computer as you walk into a room, and shuts it down as you leave, getting rid of the time-consuming process of logging on and logging off, and leaving your computer secure in the meantime.

It's a technology that has provoked a great deal of interest. Unveiled at the CEBIT 1998 exhibition in March this year, the First Access Enterprise Suite won an award for the best data security product, sparking a flurry of meetings between First Access management and senior executives from Sun, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Motorola and even Microsoft.

Since it was founded at the end of 1997, the Haifa-based start-up has received \$6.5 million in capital, and has recently signed a distribution agreement with Asgent, a leading Japanese distributor of security products, which is widely recognized as being responsible for Checkpoint's dominance in the Japanese firewall market. The system has also been integrated into the products of Sun Microsystems.

"We are considered to be the best financed and fastest growing start-up in Israel," says Dov Sharom, executive vice president of the company.

ELGRESSY founded First Access in the winter of 1997 with a staff of four and seed capital of \$1.5m. from the Neutrone Fund. A second round of fund raising was held in September which brought in an additional \$5m. from Jerusalem Venture Partners, Shamrock and the Van Leer group of Holland.

The company discovered that 80-85 percent of computer break-ins occur from inside a company. Forget about the mysterious hack-

er, most of the major security breaches are caused by employees, either for personal reasons, for revenge or for industrial espionage.

Apple's legendary CEO Steve Jobs, for instance, once logged on in the morning to discover that an e-mail had gone out to all his employees, ostensibly from him, listing the salaries of all his top workers.

"It was an inside job," says Sharom. "There was no real damage done in tangible terms, but people got access to information they weren't supposed to have."

Many break-ins are more serious, however. A recent Ernst and Young report on corporate security showed that 50% of all respondents had suffered at least one serious financial loss due to internal breaches.

"If your work station is not locked properly, it's a piece of cake to steal intellectual property," says Sharom.

The most common form of security today is the password, with some 99% of users relying on one to log on to their computer networks. "The problem with passwords is that to ensure security, they need to be long and complicated, and it's hard to remember them," says Sharom.

In addition, he says, users don't want to waste time typing in a password whenever they leave their computer, as it takes two to three minutes to log off, and another two to three to log back on.

In most companies, he says, MIS management spends much of its time chasing employees to make sure they change their passwords every few months and that they select complicated passwords. "It's a constant battle between MIS management and end users," says Sharom. "It's quite clear that everyone wants to upgrade from passwords."

THE First Access Enterprise Suite is based on a tag the size of a credit card which functions as a verification smart card. A user can put the tag in a pocket, a wallet or even a bag. As soon as he walks into the room, the computer will identify him from a distance, opening the same document that was on the screen the last time it was in use. When the user moves away from the computer, it shuts down, stopping any unauthorized



By Nicky Blackburn

people from using it. The system also runs background tasks while you are away — a smart search of the Internet for example.

While the card is a little on the thick side, the company plans to reduce its size so that it can be pinned on to name tags.

"It's the natural choice for users," says Sharom. "It's much more secure than existing methods and offers the same level of security as smart cards, but with a new level of usability to end users. It's an incredible feeling to know that you can walk out of the office and no one can look at your mail or mess with your computer."

In addition, he says, it also saves MIS administrators a great deal of time and energy. "They don't have to run after us any more," says Sharom.

The product has several options. There can be automatic log-in from one to 10 meters; semi-automatic log-in (where you click an icon on the screen); log-on with a pincode at the start of day; and a proximity system whereby you bring the card close to the sensor. In addition, you can have a multi-user function that only switches the computer on in the presence of several users. "This is something you can't do with smart cards," says Sharom.

If a card is stolen the system can be disabled.

THOUGH the product is technologically complicated, it has been designed to be easy to use, according to Sharom. It is part of Windows NT, and MIS administrators don't have to learn a new interface.

"We installed a beta-site test in Tel Aviv a few weeks ago, and the MIS administrator was shocked at how easy it was to use," says Sharom. "After two hours, he was installing the work stations himself."

The system, which costs \$200 per workstation and should go on sale in April, can be used for three years without a battery change.

The company aims to upgrade the card rather than have users change batteries.

At present, an upgrade costs about \$50-\$60, but the aim is to reduce that price to \$15-\$20, the same level as smart cards, and then finally to reduce it to \$3-\$4.

Initially the company is looking to sell the product to large security-conscious corporations and financial institutions, such as investment banks, commercial banks, insurance companies and government bodies.

Then it will branch out into other markets, approaching small- and medium-sized companies that want to keep their computer networks secure.

Today, the company is approaching its first target market directly, but it intends to begin working through indirect channels soon by linking up with security distributors. The September deal with Asgent is the first of many, Sharom hopes. "We have good contacts with distributors in the US, Europe and Japan," says Sharom.

The company is also aiming to sign joint marketing agreements with companies such as Check Point, Memo and Computer Associates, and to approach smart-card manufacturers.

Beta-site testing has already begun. First Access began using the system in September and several other Israeli companies began testing it one month ago.

At the start of next year, pilot schemes will be running in the US and Europe.

Sharom says that the company recently made contact with an official from the US government and a pilot will begin there soon.

THE computer authentication market is a huge field, estimated at some \$1 billion worldwide. By 2001, this figure should increase phenomenally. First Access is obviously not alone in this area. Sharom, however, believes the company has developed something unique.

"Today there are several different solutions in the field. Firstly there are ID tokens. Sharom dismisses them as offering only passive security.

Then there is biometrics — companies that manufacture security systems based on fingerprint, face or eye scans. Sharom believes this

field is too exotic for daily use. "People view them as competition, but they're not. It's not a mainstream solution. We won't use it on our lap-top or desktop on an hourly basis because you don't want to do a fingerprint scan all the time."

Perhaps the real competitors are the smart-card manufacturers. Smart cards can be used not only to secure the computer, but also to do other things such as buy sandwiches, see a film, etc. "These are very open platforms, and you can do a lot of things with them, but the problem is that you still have to take it out of your pocket, insert it into a reader and then pull it out again. Most people don't want to do that, so the cards end up being stuck in the computer all day, and the work station is exposed.

"The market is growing very rapidly, but customers are bored with the same solutions and want something new. They feel our product line is really bringing user authentication to a new level of usability," says Sharom. "We've added a new feature to smart cards. We've made them contactless. It's beyond smart cards."

In April last year the company became a founding member of the OpenCard consortium with companies such as IBM, Netscape and Sun Microsystems. The consortium supports complete interoperability with complementary systems, industries and standards — something the company views as vital to its future.

The company hopes to integrate other technologies into its product to offer greater security, as well as a host of other applications. The plan is to incorporate vicinity technology that will allow First Access cards to be used both directly and at a distance. "We as users will not give up certain actions," says Sharom. "We aren't likely to want to withdraw cash from an ATM at a distance for instance."

Unlike many Israeli start-ups First Access is not looking to be sold, even for millions of dollars, and is now hiring an American CEO and plans to move all but its R&D operation to the US.

"We don't want to be sold," says Sharom. "We want to make sure the company is big, and we will do whatever we can to become a large company."











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## Michigan State crushes Illinois-Chicago 77-33

EAST LANSING (AP) — Michigan State's stingiest defensive performance in nearly 50 years provided a flashback to last season when the Spartans won a share of the Big Ten championship.

"One of the things we wanted to improve on was our defense," coach Tom Izzo said after 14th-ranked Michigan State crushed Illinois-Chicago 77-33 Sunday. "It's the thing we were known for last year, and in the last two games we've made the most progress on the defensive end."

The 33 points allowed by the Spartans were the fewest since a 43-32 victory over Michigan on January 17, 1951. It was also the second-largest victory margin since Michigan State moved to the Breslin Center in 1989.

The Spartans were the only ranked team to play Sunday.

Michigan State (6-3) had no trouble with the Flames (3-4), who upset the Spartans 70-58 in Chicago last season.

Michigan State used a 10-0 run to overcome an 8-6 lead by UIC and added to the margin throughout the game. The Spartans led 32-17 at halftime. They took a 47-point lead late in the second half.

Morris Peterson made his first start of the season in place of the injured Jason Klein and led

Michigan State with 18 points. He also tied his career highs with nine rebounds and five assists.

The Flames committed 27 turnovers, leading to 37 points by the Spartans. Michigan State had 11 turnovers, which UIC converted to just three points.

The Spartans' defensive effort held the Flames to 22 percent shooting for the game (9-for-41) and left UIC coach Jimmy Collins searching for answers.

"They spanked us real good," Collins said. "Their defense was good, but our offense was horrible."

"We're going to have to make some changes... We want people who'll compete... who'll block out somebody or will drive to the basket. We had enough zeroes to start a doughnut factory."

Izzo doesn't have those kind of problems. His biggest concern now is getting point guard Mateen Cleaves back into the offense.

Cleaves had a strong defensive game Sunday, but had just six points and four assists.

"We have to get Mateen a little bit more into the offense," Izzo said. "We don't want to eliminate him because he's been great about letting the game come to him. I told him at halftime that we need him to steal a little more of the game again."

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 13, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1	Connecticut (66)	8-0	1,788	1
2	Duke (4)	9-1	1,699	3
3	Kentucky	9-1	1,610	5
4	Cincinnati (1)	8-0	1,582	4
5	Maryland	10-1	1,508	2
6	Stanford	5-2	1,372	6
7	North Carolina	10-1	1,333	7
8	Arizona	4-0	1,243	8
9	Purdue	10-1	1,243	9
10	Indiana	10-2	1,056	11
11	New Mexico	8-0	989	12
12	UCLA	5-2	889	15
13	Kansas	6-2	880	10
14	Michigan St.	6-3	829	14
15	St. John's	8-2	794	16
16	Clemson	8-1	711	17
17	Minnesota	6-0	558	24
18	Oklahoma St.	5-2	466	19
19	Auburn	6-2	299	20
20	Arkansas	7-2	271	23
21	Syracuse	7-2	267	13
22	Pittsburgh	7-4	214	20
23	Wisconsin	9-1	192	—
24	Oklahoma	5-1	149	—
25	Iowa	7-1	146	—

Others receiving votes: Texas Christian 12, Tennessee 99, Florida 88, Temple 75, DePaul 74, Georgia Tech 70, California 61, Georgia 55, Coll. of Charleston 39, Penn St. 39, Villanova 35, Toledo 33, Washington St. 31, Missouri 22, Murray St. 21, Mississippi St. 18, Southern Cal 17, SW Missouri St. 16, Miami, Ohio 15, Tulsa 15, Utah 15, Xavier 14, Miami 10, N. Carolina St. 9, Memphis 8, Providence 6, George Washington 5, Rhode Island 5, Gonzaga 4, Rutgers 3, Old Dominion 2, St. Joseph's 2, Wake Forest 2, Delaware 1, N.C. Charlotte 1, Navy 1, Texas 1.

## Oilers grab division lead



PHILADELPHIA — Boris Mironov scored the tying goal with seven seconds left in regulation to cap a wild final six minutes as the Edmonton Oilers earned a 2-2 tie with the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday.

"Some ties feel like losses," said Oilers center Bill Guerin. "This tie feels like a win. It's one point, but it's one point we didn't think we were going to get."

Edmonton's Marty McSorley tied the game 1-1 with 5:26 left in the third period, but the Flyers took a 2-1 lead with 24 seconds left.

John LeClair dug the puck from the right boards and fed Eric Lindros behind the net. Lindros backhanded a pass to Eric Desjardins in the slot and he got off a quick wrist shot that beat Mikhail Shtalenkov to the goal.

After the ensuing faceoff, the Oilers pulled Shtalenkov and converted the tying goal on a scramble in the Flyers zone.

Roman Hamrlik's slap shot from the left point was knocked down in front of the net. Mironov got to the loose puck in front of the left circle and put a backhand shot into the outstretched glove of John

Vanbiesbrouck.

Philadelphia appeared to win with 1:57 left in overtime.

LeClair slid a centering pass to Keith Jones, skating up the slot. Shtalenkov stopped the initial shot by Jones, who slid into the goaltender, knocking the puck loose and into the net.

But the officials ruled Shtalenkov was pushed into his own net and the goal was disallowed.

Edmonton moved a point ahead of Colorado for the lead in the Northwest Division.

**Blackhawks 2, Stars 2**

Pat Verbeek scored a power-play goal in the third period and the visiting Dallas Stars stayed unbeaten through their last five games.

Chicago's Ethan Moreau scored from in front on a rebound of a miss by Doug Smolek at 10:14 of the final period to give the Blackhawks a 2-1 lead.

But three minutes later, the Stars used their effective power play — fourth best in the NHL — to get even. Verbeek took a nice centering pass from Joe Nieuwendyk and beat Mark Fitzpatrick to make it 2-2. The Stars nearly scored again moments later but Dave Reid's backhand clanked off the pipe.

**Mighty Ducks 3, Kings 0**

Teemu Selanne broke open a scoreless game with a pair of second-period goals and Paul Kariya

ended a seven-game scoring drought as host Anaheim won.

Guy Hebert made 35 saves to earn his 20th career shutout and the first recorded by either team in this 29-game Southern California rivalry, which was born when the NHL expanded to Orange County in 1993.

The Ducks have never held the edge over the Kings in the overall series, which they evened up at 12-12. It is the third time the Ducks have tied the series, after losing the first four meetings in 1993-94. (Reuters, AP)

Edmonton Oilers 0 0 0 0-2  
Philadelphia Flyers 0 0 1 0-2  
First Period—None. Second Period—1. Philadelphia, Bureau 1 (Desjardins, Forbes), 11:28. Third Period—2. Edmonton, McSorley 1 (Guerin, Kowalenko), 4:34. 3. Philadelphia, Desjardins 3 (Lindros, LeClair), 19:36. 4. Edmonton, Mironov 5 (Guerin, Mironov), 19:52. Overtime—None. Final Score: Oilers 2-2 Philadelphia 1-2. Goals—Edmonton 7-5-5-2-3. Philadelphia 4-6-5-2-3. Goals—Edmonton 7-5-5-2-3. Philadelphia 4-6-5-2-3. Goals—Edmonton 7-5-5-2-3. Philadelphia 4-6-5-2-3.

Dallas Stars 1 0 1 0-2  
Chicago Blackhawks 0 1 1 0-2  
First Period—1. Chicago, Anisimov 21 (Chalicki, Gilmour), 10:29 (pp). 2. Dallas, Hatcher 6 (Marshall, Matichuk), 18:42. Second Period—None. Third Period—2. Chicago, Moreau 5 (Zmolek, Zmolek), 10:14. 4. Dallas, Verbeek 5 (Nieuwendyk, Modano), 12:39 (pp). Overtime—None. Shots on goal—Dallas 7-15-10-3-2. Chicago 19-6-4-5-2-3. Goals—Dallas, Selanne, Chicago, Fitzpatrick, A-17:05.

Los Angeles 0 0 0 0-0  
Anaheim 0 0 0 0-0  
First Period—None. Second Period—1. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 2. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 3. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 4. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 5. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 6. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 7. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 8. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 9. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 10. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 11. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 12. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 13. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 14. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 15. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 16. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 17. Anaheim, Selanne 8 (Kariya, Gustafson), 10:13 (pp). 18. 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# Jets one win away from 1st AFC East title



MIAMI (AP) — The New York Jets hung on to a fourth-quarter lead against Dan Marino, and now they hold a one-game lead in the AFC East.

New York foiled Marino's comeback bid Sunday night, stopping him three times in the final period and scoring on a fumble return for a 21-16 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

New York (10-4) clinched a playoff berth and moved a game ahead of Miami and Buffalo (both 9-5) in the AFC East.

"This puts us in the tournament," second-year Jets coach Bill Parcells said. "That's one of the reasons I'm in coaching. It's very satisfying."

The Jets, who have never won an AFC East title, improved to 5-1 within the division, which could help them in a tiebreaker. They play Saturday at Buffalo.

The only happy Dolphins were members of the undefeated 1972 team, who celebrated Denver's first defeat of the season Sunday against the New York Giants.

Vinny Testaverde outplayed Marino, setting up two touchdowns with long completions. The Jets won their fourth in a row, completed a sweep of the season series against Miami and handed the Dolphins their first defeat in seven home games this year.

Vikings 38, Ravens 28  
Gary Anderson kicked six field goals, Randall Cunningham threw two touchdown passes and visiting Minnesota forced six turnovers to get its franchise-record 13th victory.

Minnesota (13-1) scored 26



GOING DOWN — Philadelphia Eagles runningback Duce Staley is tackled by Arizona's Jamir Miller. The Cardinals won 20-17.

points off the turnovers and remained a game ahead of Atlanta

in the race for best record in the NFC and homefield advantage in the playoffs.

Anderson has kicked 34 straight field goals, breaking the NFL record of 31 set by the Vikings' Fud Revis in 1994 and 1995.

The teams also set an NFL record with three kickoff returns for touchdowns, including two by the Ravens (5-9), who used a 95-yard return by Corey Harris and a 97-yarder by Patrick Johnson to go up 14-6.

Packers 26, Bears 20  
Dorsey Levens and Antonio Freeman had 100-yard days as the injury-riddled Packers (9-5) beat visiting Chicago (3-11) for the ninth straight time.

Levens, in his third game back from a broken leg that sidelined him for three months, carried 15

times for 105 yards. Freeman, in his first game back from a fractured jaw, caught eight passes for 103 yards and a touchdown.

Colts 39, Bengals 26  
Peyton Manning passed for 210 yards and three touchdowns as the host Colts handed Cincinnati its ninth straight loss.

The victory snapped a three-game slide for Indianapolis (3-11), which blew double-digit leads in its previous two games. Marshall Faulk rushed for 115 yards and two TDs for the Colts.

Falcons 27, Saints 17  
Terrence Mathis caught TD passes of 63 and 62 yards from Chris Chandler as visiting Atlanta stayed ahead of San Francisco in the NFC West.

Jamal Anderson ran for 148 yards on 27 carries for the

Falcons, who can claim the NFL West crown and a first-round bye if the 49ers lose to Detroit tonight. It was Anderson's 10th 100-yard rushing game this season.

Bills 44, Raiders 21  
Host Buffalo scored on six straight possessions to remain in the AFC East title race.

Buffalo (9-5) has won four of its last five games and nine of 11. Doug Flutie completed 17 of 26 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns for the Bills, who are trying to become only the fourth team in league history to reach the playoffs after a 0-3 start.

Bucs 16, Steelers 3  
Mike Alstott scored on a 3-yard run and Tampa Bay forced five turnovers as the Buccaneers (7-7) won their third straight.

Michael Husted kicked three field goals for the Bucs, who climbed to 500 for only the second time this season. The visiting Steelers (7-7) have not scored a touchdown in nine quarters.

Oilers 16, Jaguars 13  
Al Del Greco kicked the winning 41-yard field goal with four seconds remaining.

The win pulled the visiting Oilers (8-6) within two games of Jacksonville (10-4) in the AFC

Central with two games remaining and the tiebreaker in Tennessee's favor. The Jaguars, forced to use third-string quarterback Jonathan Quinn in the second half because of injuries, still need one victory to clinch their first division title.

Seahawks 38, Chargers 17  
The host Seahawks intercepted a franchise-record seven passes, including two apiece by Shawn Springs, Darryl Williams and Jay Bellamy.

Seattle (7-7) returned an interception and a fumble for touchdowns to set an NFL record for most TDs (12) off turnovers in a season. The Seahawks intercepted five passes by Chargers starter Craig Whelihan and two by rookie Ryan Leaf, who played for the first time in five games.

Chiefs 20, Cowboys 10  
Bam Morris rushed for 137 yards and a touchdown as host Kansas City handed Dallas its third straight loss.

The loss prevented the Cowboys (8-6) from clinching their seventh NFC East crown in eight years. The victory by the Chiefs (6-8) moved coach Marty Schottenheimer into 11th place on the career victory list with 143.

Cardinals 20, Eagles 17 (OT)

Buf-Norfolk 40 interception return (Chris Jack, 82); Del Greco 50 pass from Wilson (Davis kick), 2:57. A-22,002.

San Diego 7 7 0 3-17  
Seattle 14 7 7 10-38  
First Quarter: Sea-King 2 run (Petersen kick), 12:51. SD-L-Williams 14 interception return (Carmy kick), 6:07. Sea-McDaniel 43 interception return (Petersen kick), 2:22. Second Quarter: Sea-Harris 1 run (Petersen kick), 9:46. SD-Flutie 1 run (Carmy kick), 1:18. Third Quarter: Sea-Galloway 9 pass from King (Petersen kick), 6:01. Fourth Quarter: SD-Carmy 21, 14:33. Sea-Kennedy 30 fumble return (Petersen kick), 13:13. Sea-FG Longwell 24, 8:15. A-62,600.

Minnesota 12 10 10 3-38  
Baltimore 10 10 10 14-26  
First Quarter: Min-FG Anderson 43, 10:05. Baltimore 85 kickoff return (Baltimore kick), 10:05. Min-FG Anderson 31, 5:55. Baltimore 88 kickoff return (Baltimore kick), 5:55. Second Quarter: Min-FG Anderson 43, 12:55. Min-Moss 17 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 1:38. Min-FG Anderson 24, 6:17. Third Quarter: Min-FG Anderson 43, 13:50. Min-Carter 11 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 11:38. Fourth Quarter: Baltimore 43 pass from Harbaugh (Baltimore kick), 12:05. Min-FG Anderson 20, 2:51. Baltimore 11 run (Turner pass from Harbaugh), 2:51. A-55,074.

Dallas 0 0 0 14-17  
Kansas City 3 0 14 3-30  
First Quarter: KC-FG Stoenovich 34, 5:21. Second Quarter: KC-FG Stoenovich 32, 4:21. Third Quarter: KC-Moss 1 run (Stoenovich kick), 4:01. KC-Cannon 8 run (Stoenovich kick), 2:37. Fourth Quarter: KC-Harris 28 pass from Warner (Cunningham kick), 12:25. KC-FG Stoenovich 43, 5:58. Dallas 8 pass from Allen (Cunningham kick), 2:48. A-77,597.

N.Y. Jets 7 0 7 7-21  
Miami 0 0 0 0-38  
First Quarter: Jets-FG Marino 24, 3:35. Second Quarter: Jets-FG Marino 24, 12:51. Third Quarter: Jets-FG Marino 24, 12:51. Fourth Quarter: Jets-FG Marino 24, 12:51. A-44,200.

Pittsburgh 3 0 0 0-3  
Tampa Bay 3 3 7 0-3

Chris Jacke, who missed a 34-yard field goal at the end of regulation, kicked a 32-yard fourth-and-a-half minutes into overtime to give Arizona (7-7) the victory at Philadelphia (3-11).

In games reported in yesterday's edition:

Redskins 28, Panthers 25  
Rookie Skip Hicks ran for two touchdowns as visiting Washington extended its home-season surge.

Trent Green threw for 257 yards and two scores as the Redskins (5-9) won for the fifth time in seven games and got its first three-game winning streak since 1996.

Rams 32, Patriots 18  
Rookie Az Hakin and former practice squad player June Hensley each scored two touchdowns for the host Rams (4-10), who overcame three first-half turnovers and a season-ending injury to quarterback Tony Banks.

Giants 20, Broncos 16  
The visiting Broncos' dreams of becoming the first NFL team since those Dolphins to go undefeated ended when Kent Graham threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to Amani Toomer with 48 seconds left, giving the New York Giants a shocking victory.

First Quarter: Ph-FG L-Johnson 27, 8:00. Second Quarter: Ph-FG L-Johnson 27, 12:03. Third Quarter: Ph-FG L-Johnson 27, 12:03. Fourth Quarter: Ph-FG L-Johnson 27, 12:03. A-65,555.

Chicago 7 0 0 7-30  
Green Bay 3 0 0 10-26  
First Quarter: Chi-Sanson 1 run (Jacke kick), 11:41. Second Quarter: Chi-Sanson 1 run (Jacke kick), 11:41. Third Quarter: Chi-Sanson 1 run (Jacke kick), 11:41. Fourth Quarter: Chi-Sanson 1 run (Jacke kick), 11:41. A-55,555.

Washington 14 7 7 0-38  
Carolina 3 14 0 0-38  
First Quarter: Was-Cornell 16 pass from Green (Blandford kick), 12:27. Was-Holt 4 run (Blandford kick), 6:41. Car-FG Kasey 20, 5:00. Second Quarter: Was-Holt 4 run (Blandford kick), 11:27. Car-Schubert 28 pass from Boush (Kasey kick), 2:43. Car-Stone recovered blocked punt in end zone (Kasey kick), 1:42. Green 43 run (Holt kick), 12:51. Was-Holt 4 run (Blandford kick), 6:28. Fourth Quarter: Car-Schubert 2 run (Muhammad pass from Boush), 12:51. A-44,940.

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	369	244
Buffalo	9	5	0	.643	345	283
Miami	9	5	0	.643	274	206
New England	8	6	0	.571	303	277
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	268	390
Central						
Jacksonville	10	4	0	.714	361	285
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	292	284
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	236	257
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	247	301
Cincinnati	2	12	0	.143	243	393
West						
y-Denver	13	1	0	.929	452	257
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	247	315
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	324	259
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	289	311
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	216	309

y-clinched division title

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	345	259
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	290	348
N.Y. Giants	6	8	0	.429	239	292
Washington	5	9	0	.357	292	382
Philadelphia	3	11	0	.214	142	311
Central						
y-Minnesota	13	1	0	.929	480	270
Green Bay	9	5	0	.643	362	284
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	263	275
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	266	300
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	239	349
West						
Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	380	256
San Francisco	10	4	0	.769	385	272
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	255	295
St. Louis	4	10	0	.286	253	320
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	289	381

x-clinched playoff berth

## NBA

Continued from Page 20

Some fans yelled, "Defense," but, of course, there wasn't any. "Guys aren't going to go hard out there because they don't really want to get hurt," Jones said. "We got too much at risk."

The Mid Valley team, including Mills of the New York Knicks, Tracy Murray of the Washington Wizards, Charles O'Bannon of the Detroit Pistons and NBA rookie Paul Pierce, defeated the NBA All-Stars 128-119.

Although he was advertised as a participant, Shaquille O'Neal didn't show. Signs at the ticket win-

dows advised fans he wouldn't be here.

Several players were just happy to be in front of a crowd. Their daily pickup games around Los Angeles don't attract more than a curious few.

"It feels good to get out there and entertain some people," Murray said. "That's the only thing that drives me. We're taking this game for granted. It's a fun game and I miss playing it."

The rosters were heavy with players who have local ties, either through their pro teams or colleges. Among others playing were Brent Barry, Darrick Martin, Jalen Rose, Lamond Murray, Bryon Russell, Pooh Richardson, Stacey

Augmon, Derek Fisher and Jack Haley.

Tracy Murray expressed impatience with negotiations to end the lockout. Talks broke off Saturday after only 30 minutes.

"The owners and David Stern need to start acting like businessmen and get in there and negotiate," he said. "Just because things don't go right in the first half-hour doesn't necessarily mean that we can't get anywhere. Lock the door, get something done."

Proceeds will be shared with three local charities to provide holiday toys for disadvantaged children, a foundation spokeswoman said. She didn't know how much money was raised.

## Mets sign Henderson for \$2.3m.

NASHVILLE (AP) — The New York Mets got ready to run with Ricky Henderson and the Toronto Blue Jays traded a starting pitcher — no, it wasn't Roger Clemens.

The Mets, one of the busiest teams this offseason, made another move to improve their lineup by signing Henderson to a one-year deal worth \$2.3 million.

Henderson, 40 on December 25, led the majors with 66 steals last season for Oakland and is baseball's career leader in stolen bases. The Mets, meanwhile, were last in the majors with 62 steals.

"I'd say the Mets have the best

team in New York now," he said. "The Yankees have carried the crown for a while, now it's the Mets' turn to take over."

In the first trade of this five-day session, the Blue Jays sent pitcher Woody Williams to San Diego for pitcher Joey Hamilton in a four-player deal. The Padres also got pitcher Carlos Almanzar and outfield prospect Peter Tucci.

The Blue Jays got an outstanding report on Hamilton from Dave Stewart — the Padres' pitching coach last season and recently hired by Toronto as an assistant general manager.

The Astros dropped out of the pursuit for the five-time Cy Young Award winner, though they did not go quietly. Astros general manager Gerry Hunsicker had harsh words for Randy and Alan Hendricks, Clemens' agents and brokers for a potential deal.

"Quite frankly, we are stunned and outraged at the demands of the agents," Hunsicker said. "The talent we would have to potentially give up would leave us with a team that Roger Clemens would not want to play for." Clemens wants to play for either a contender or a team near his Houston home.

## Leeds move up to third

LONDON (Reuters) — Leeds United beat Coventry City 2-0 at Elland Road in a full-blooded match yesterday to move into third place in the Premier League.

David Hopkins scored his first goal of the season for Leeds in the 40th minute after Australia's Harry Kewell and Irish international Ian Harte had carved open the Coventry defense. Lee Bowyer made it four goals in his last three matches when he slotted past Swede Magnus Hedman to seal it up.

## A new exhibition in the Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem

**Hanukka Events - Blue in Your Eyes**

**Blue Screen:** Experience blue screen techniques: swimming with dolphins, walking on the moon, presenting the weather report.

**Find the Camera:** Detective game: Find the spy who crept into the museum with a hidden "broadcasting" machine and wanders through the halls.

**What Can Blue do?** Circus performance in the blue world for the whole family. Two clowns find themselves in a world where everything is blue. What happens when the clowns see their images on various screens?

**Arrow of Time:** Experience time reversal of processes through a video.

**Blue in Your Eye events:** Tuesday (second candle of Hanukka), Dec. 15, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Wednesday (third candle), Dec. 16 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.); Thursday (fourth candle), Dec. 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday (fifth candle), Dec. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Saturday (sixth candle), Dec. 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday (seventh candle), Dec. 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Monday (eighth candle), Dec. 21, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Djanogly Centre and exhibition was created through the generosity of Sir Harry Djanogly of London. A project of the Jerusalem Foundation.

**Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem**

Founded by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Foundation. Activities supported by the Jerusalem Municipality, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Science and the Jerusalem Foundation.

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SEC reporting experience

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**THE WEATHER**  
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**ISRAEL**  
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**EUROPE WEATHER TODAY**

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**ISRAEL CITIES**

City	Today	High	Low	Wednesday	High	Low	Thursday	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Ariel	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30
Beer Sheva	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30
Dead Sea	20/88	105/50	18/64	105/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50
Eilat	20/88	105/50	18/64	105/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50
Haiifa	18/11	145/20	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30
Jerusalem	17/82	74/44	15/59	54/10	15/59	54/10	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30
Katzi	13/55	53/70	12/53	15/44	11/52	13/10	12/53	15/44	11/52	13/10	12/53	15/44
Netanya	18/64	105/50	17/82	84/50	17/82	84/50	19/61	105/50	18/64	105/50	19/61	105/50
Tel Aviv	19/61	84/50	18/64	74/44	17/82	74/44	18/64	84/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50
Thessalon	18/64	84/50	18/64	42/30	16/61	42/30	17/82	94/36	15/59	42/30	16/61	42/30

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, drizzle, showers, thunderstorms, rain, drizzle, snow, snow, rain, snow.

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	High	Low	Wednesday	High	Low	Thursday	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Amsterdam	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36
Beijing	8/48	32/76	8/48	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Berlin	11/52	74/44	7/44	42/30	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Buenos Aires	12/53	84/50	11/52	105/50	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Cairo	18/64	105/50	18/64	105/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50	19/61	84/50	18/64	84/50
Chicago	13/55	53/70	12/53	15/44	11/52	13/10	12/53	15/44	11/52	13/10	12/53	15/44
Frankfurt	9/48	64/36	7/44	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Hong Kong	17/82	74/44	18/64	105/50	23/73	18/64	23/73	18/64	23/73	18/64	23/73	18/64
Johannesburg	20/88	105/50	20/88	105/50	20/88	105/50	20/88	105/50	20/88	105/50	20/88	105/50
London	12/53	74/44	14/57	12/53	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Los Angeles	24/75	84/50	24/75	105/50	27/80	14/57	14/57	14/57	14/57	14/57	14/57	14/57
Madrid	17/82	94/36	16/61	64/36	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30
Mexico City	18/64	42/30	18/64	42/30	17/82	42/30	17/82	42/30	17/82	42/30	17/82	42/30
Montreal	7/44	12/53	6/43	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Moscow	10/50	14/57	11/52	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
New York	10/50	32/76	11/52	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Paris	12/53	64/36	9/48	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36
Peking	8/48	32/76	7/44	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Rio de Janeiro	23/73	25/77	23/73	25/77	23/73	25/77	23/73	25/77	23/73	25/77	23/73	25/77
Rome	14/57	64/36	16/61	64/36	17/82	105/50	17/82	105/50	17/82	105/50	17/82	105/50
Sydney	22/71	18/64	22/71	18/64	22/71	18/64	22/71	18/64	22/71	18/64	22/71	18/64
Tokyo	19/61	84/50	12/53	33/70	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30	14/57	42/30
Toronto	12/53	33/70	9/48	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Vietnam	33/70	14/57	33/70	14/57	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36	10/50	64/36
Winnipeg	8/48	32/76	7/44	32/76	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70
Zurich	9/48	74/44	8/48	64/36	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70	12/53	33/70

**NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY**

## England face Ashes defeat

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - England's dream of winning back the Ashes was shattered yesterday as its frontline batsmen struggled on an Adelaide Oval minefield.

England were 122 for four in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day, leaving them another 321 runs to win after Australia earlier set them an improbable victory target of 443 by declaring their second innings closed at 278 for five.

A defeat for England would put Australia two-nil up in the five-Test series, ensuring a drawn series at worst and allowing the home side to retain the Ashes for the sixth consecutive time. England have not held the Ashes since 1989.

Mark Ramprakash on 43 not out and Nasser Hussain, out for 41 just before stumps, were again defiant, batting through all but 10 minutes of the last session for 89 runs.

Ramprakash was lifted up the order above struggling captain Alec Stewart, who scored a duck in the first innings and had scored 41 runs in his five Test innings on this tour. Stewart had yet to score at the close.

But all the English batsmen struggled to cope with leg-spinner Stuart MacGill's grenades on a crumbling pitch, as well as deliveries from paceman Glen McGrath that shot through at shin height.

Off-spinner Colin Miller grabbed two quick wickets at the death, snaring Dean Headley and Hussain with balls that surprisingly kept straight.

MacGill repeatedly beat the batsmen with leg breaks that jagged out of the bowlers' foot marks and slammed high into wicketkeeper Ian Healy's gloves, at times appearing to turn the ball too far to take the edge.

England suffered two early setbacks when openers Michael



UNHAPPY - England captain Alec Stewart hangs his head as his team suffer against Australia during the third Test. (Reuters)

Atherton and Mark Butcher were dismissed within an hour.

Atherton, the rock on which so many English rear-guard actions have built, fell for five runs when off-spinner Colin Miller surprised him with a delivery that caught the shoulder of his bat and flew to Mark Waugh at silly point.

Australia declared half an hour after lunch after sprinting past an accurate but less than threatening England attack.

Opener Michael Slater burst out of the blocks, thumping Darren Gough's first two balls to the boundary.

He then carved his way to 103, his 10th Test century, his fifth against the English and his second of the series.

His innings included one extraordinary cover drive that ended with him down on both knees in the praying position.

Slater said his latest innings was particularly satisfying, as he started with some apprehension before growing in confidence.

"If you're on fire and you're scoring easily from the first ball you face, then it just happens but when you have to go through a few tough periods it makes it a bit

more satisfying."

First innings failure Mark Waugh, who was a shattered man in scratching to seven on Friday after being booted onto the pitch, appeared to rediscover his usually graceful form in the second innings and was 51 not out at the declaration.

Waugh has been at the center of the book-making scandal that has shocked the cricketing world over the past week.

His second walk to the middle raised only muted jeers and he was cheered from the ground at the declaration.

**Pakistan-Zimbabwe**

The weather-hit second cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe was abandoned as a draw after mist and fog prevented any play on the fifth and final day yesterday.

Umpires Darrel Hair of Australia and Mian Aslam inspected the ground several times during the day before finally calling off play on their sixth inspection.

**Australia, 1st innings 381**  
 England, 1st innings 227  
 Australia, 2nd innings  
 Overnight 150 for one  
 Mark Taylor bowled by Stuart MacGill 103  
 Michael Slater bowled by Stuart MacGill 103  
 Justin Langer c sub b Stuart MacGill 82  
 Mark Waugh not out 51  
 Steve Waugh c Healy b McGrath 7  
 Ricky Ponting b Gough 10  
 Ian Healy not out 7  
 Extras (2 bats, 1w, 5nb) 19  
**TOTAL: 278 for five declared**  
 Fall of wickets: 54, 188, 216, 230, 288  
 Bowling: Darren Gough 22-2-76-2, Alan Mullally 16-0-18-3, Dean Headley 12-1-70-2 (nb), Peter Such 23-5-66-2 (1w), Mark Ramprakash 12-1-27-0, Graeme Hick 14-0-1-0.  
 Batting time: 405 minutes. Overs: 88  
 England, 2nd innings  
 Mark Butcher c Healy b Fleming 39  
 Mike Atherton c Mark Waugh b Miller 5  
 Nasser Hussain bowled by Miller 41  
 Mark Ramprakash not out 43  
 Dean Headley c Mark Waugh b Miller 2  
 Alec Stewart not out 0  
 Extras (2b, 4lb, 5nb) 12  
**TOTAL: 122 for four**  
 Fall of wickets: 27, 31, 120, 122  
 Bowling: Glenn McGrath 10-0-22-0 (4nb), Damien Fleming 14-2-40-1 (1nb), Colin Miller 13-1-35-3, Stuart MacGill 12-4-14-0, Steve Waugh 2-1-3-0  
 Batting time: 192 minutes. Overs: 51

## NBA players back on court - for charity

LOS ANGELES (AP) - There were NBA players like Kenny Anderson, Chris Mills and Eddie Jones. There was a clock, referees, slam dunks, fancy passes and best of all, fans.

But this was no NBA game. Sunday's action at Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus

was for fun and to raise money for the Chris Mills Foundation.

About 2,000 fans - a mix of families with young children, teenagers and older folks who probably couldn't afford NBA ticket prices - shelled out \$10 and \$25 to watch the locked out pros put on a show.

"It was just for the fans," said Anderson of the Boston Celtics.

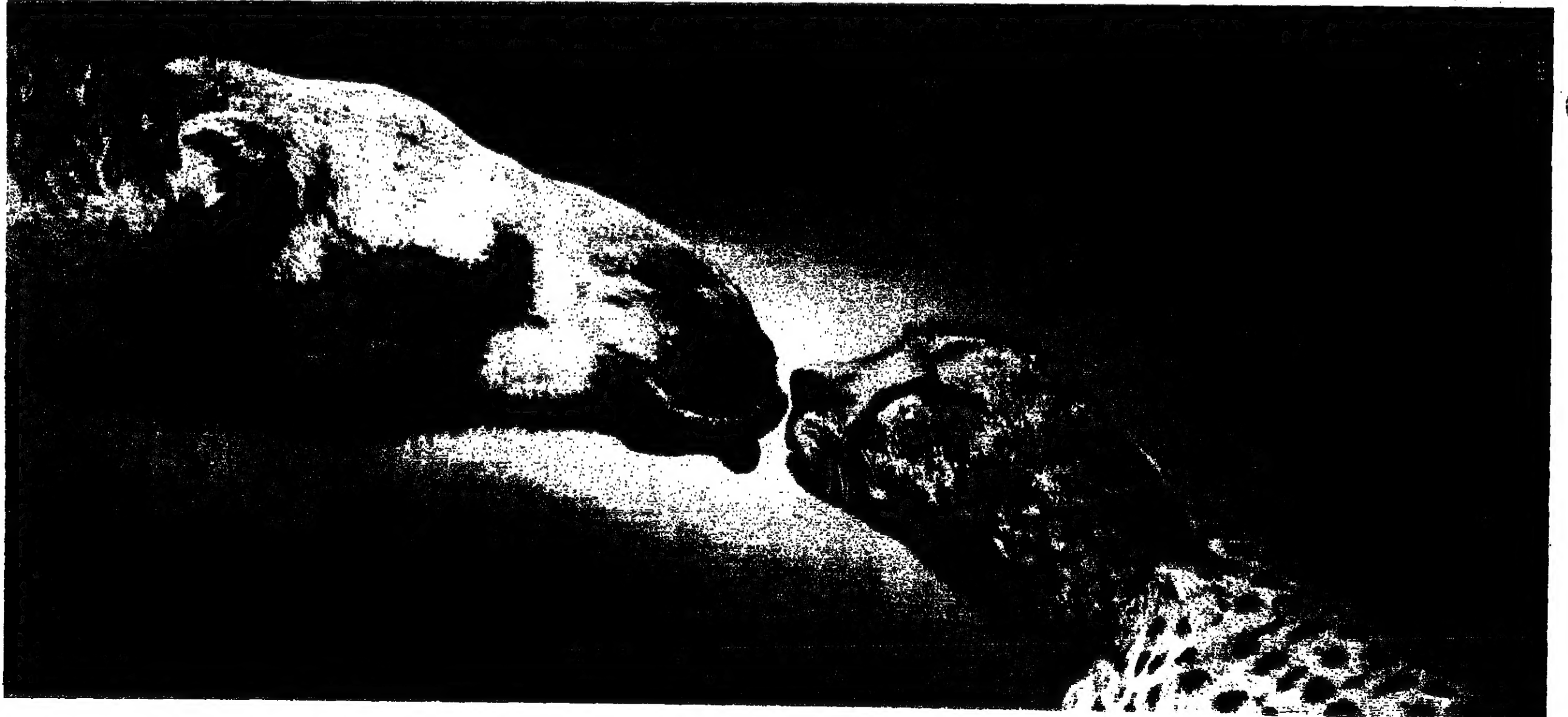
"This was not a structured game, so you really don't get too much accomplished. It's really for the cause and that's a plus," he added.

How unlike an NBA game was it? Cedric Ceballos of the Dallas

Mavericks chatted on a cell phone from the bench during the game. Several players wore diamond stud earrings (no jewelry allowed in pro games), smiled at impressive plays and waved at fans in the middle of the action.

See NBA, Page 18

Importer: Champion Motors (Israel) Ltd. Main showroom: 27/29 Barak Hirsch st., Bat Yam, Tel. 03-5775384/5. Other showrooms: Ashdod Eliraz Vehicle Services, Tel. 07-672253, Beer-Sheva Rites, Tel. 07-6900111, Baka el-Gharbiyah Rechav Iron, Tel. 06-6384585, Bat Yam Champion Motors Bat Yam, Tel. 03-5532859, Haifa Champion Motors North, Tel. 04-8620191, Jerusalem Champion Motors Jerusalem, Tel. 02-6712177, Nazareth Mosach Hazafon George and Henry Dor, Tel. 1-800-333-888, Ramatana G.G.G., Tel. 09-7435706, direct 09-7449777, Tel Aviv-Jaffa Hadar Vehicles, Tel. 03-5618484, <http://www.amd.co.il>



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